

Walsall & Willenhall CHRONICLE

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Read by more than 78,000 people

Price when sold 70p

SECOND RUN FOR JOEL EVENT RAISES MORE THAN £12,000



Fundraisers Suzy Evans and her son Owen

A FUN run organised by the family of three Black Country terror attack victims raised more than £12,000, it has now been revealed.

More than 800 runners took part in the second Run for Joel event at Sandwell Valley Country Park.

The event was organised by fundraising charity Smile for Joel, which was set up by Suzy Evans and her son Owen Richards after their family was torn apart by the 2015 beach terror attack in Tunisia.

Suzy's teenage son Joel Richards, aged 19, her brother Adrian Evans, 49, and father Patrick, 78, were all killed while on holiday together.

Nearly 850 runners entered the sec-

ond Run for Joel in September - raising £12,233.97.

A statement on the Smile for Joel Facebook page paid tribute to all those who participated. It said: "We are so proud to finally give you the amazing figures for Run for Joel 2017.

"A total of 848 runners took part and after your hard work in collecting your sponsorship money we have raised an amazing £12,233.97.

"We cannot thank you all enough for taking part. Run for Joel is our flagship event and we hope that it will continue yearly. The money raised will help so many families who have been ripped apart by murder and terrorism.

"Together we truly are making a difference and making smiles."

Runners took part in either in a 5km or 3km race - with Owen on the start line.

Other families who lost family members in Tunisia, as well as some of those who survived, also joined the event in a poignant reunion.

Suzy said: "People came from as far as Blackpool and Wiltshire to be here. It's amazing."

Smile for Joel raises money for Victim Support to support families who have lost loved ones in sudden, or tragic circumstances, including murder and acts of terrorism. For further information visit smileforjoel.com

CRIME

£10,000 reward for 'Bob' justice

A REWARD of up to £10,000 is on offer to help catch those responsible for the death of 87-year-old Arthur 'Bob' Gumbley.

His family have also called for justice for Arthur, who died in hospital on December 11, three weeks after he was beaten and robbed in his own home in Little Aston.

He was repeatedly punched and kicked, and then left in a pool of blood on the floor of his home in Endwood Drive.

National charity Crimestoppers is offering up to £10,000 in cash for information leading to the arrest and conviction of whoever is responsible for the sickening crime.

A spokesperson for Arthur's family said: "He will always be in our thoughts and we pray to God that he will get justice."

DEVELOPMENT

Full plans for 426 homes submitted

PLANS to build more than 400 homes in Walsall have moved a step closer after detailed plans were lodged.

Developers wants to build 426 homes in Goscote Lodge Crescent as part of a major regeneration scheme.

Outline plans were approved by Walsall Council planning chiefs in April. Now, a full application has been approved, detailing how the homes will be built and how they will be accessed.

ALERT

Warning after theft of Christmas gifts

POLICE are warning residents to be wary after wrapped Christmas presents were stolen in a burglary in Walsall.

The raid happened between 1.45am and 5am on Monday in Red River Road.

West Midlands Police engagement and community support officer Kevin Pitt said: "As Christmas approaches please take extra care with your home security."

Manor takes action to tackle winter pressures 100 MORE BEDS FOR HOSPITAL

NEARLY 100 extra hospital beds will be made available in the new year to tackle winter pressures at Walsall Manor Hospital, it has been revealed.

Bosses have identified wards and departments that could accommodate up to 97 beds and trolleys, though some areas will only be opened up if the Manor is under 'extreme' pressure. The measures are part of Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust's winter plan for 2017/18.

Philip Thomas-Hands, the trust's chief operating officer, will have to sign off permission for the extra space to be opened up for patients. He said: "We have additional beds that we can use for emergency cases if necessary and these will be reviewed by our capacity on a daily basis.

"We wouldn't expect to use these over the Christmas period but anticipate there may be a need in January."

Initially, 48 beds could be made available in surgical wards 10 and 11, ward seven for cardiology, ward 20c for day case patients, and ward 26 for gynaecology.

A further eight trolleys could also be freed up in the surgical assessment unit, while under 'increased' pressure another two beds would be opened on ward seven, four on ward 29's short-stay unit and another four in endoscopy.

Under 'extreme' pressure, another six patients could be placed in endoscopy and another four in the radiology department.

The trust has identified a further 27 beds in ward 14 for acute medicine but has not stated at what level of pressure they will be

Report by Richard Guttridge

opened up. The decision on where to open certain areas will depend on the type of need - whether the patient is male or female and requires surgical or medical attention.

Pressure has already been building at the Manor, according to the latest performance figures. While the number of patients in October being dealt within the required four hours in A&E improved from September, figures still stood at 83 per cent - way below the 95 per cent benchmark.

The month also saw a 'significant' increase in ambulance handover breaches, with 193 patients having to wait more than 30 minutes to be transferred and 35 people waiting for more than an hour. That issue is associated with a lack of available space.

More recently the Manor has had to battle a norovirus outbreak with up to three wards closed off last week due to the bug.

Santa stops off at beauty spot



Barr-illiant Christmas - Santa, seen with one of his little helpers, was the star of the show as hundreds turned out to festive events held at Barr Beacon this week. ● Pictures: Page 3



WE MANUFACTURE,
SUPPLY & FIT
Curtains - Cushions
Perfect Fit - Intu
Vertical - Venetian
Blackout - Roman
Roller - Pleated
Conservatory Blinds

abbey blinds
25-28 Elmore Green Road
Bloxwich
Walsall
WS3 2HW
www.blindsbyabbey.co.uk
showroom 9am-5pm Mon-Sat
0800 0194655

Deflated Santa gets sleigh back on the road



A rescued Santa after his tyre was fixed
IT was a case of Ho Ho No! when some villagers missed out on seeing Santa Claus after his sleigh was struck by a flat tyre.

Although traditionally reindeer would be on hand, the festive procession in Pelsall on Saturday, ground to a halt for nearly two hours.

Sadly, Santa and his elves did not have the benefit of Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen or indeed Rudolf to whisk the sleigh around the village streets, meaning organisers had to take to social media to make a desperate appeal for someone with a spare trailer tyre to hurry down to the village's iconic clock where the sleigh became stranded from around 6pm.

A post from 'Pelsall carnival (official)' on Facebook said: "Santa is in need of help. The trailer tyre has blown and needs new tube or tyre, or a spare wheel to borrow. Or we can't do our tour of Pelsall."

But thanks to a heroic group of Santa's helpers the sleigh was back on the road, although due to the later time the music had to be turned off and some residents missed out.

A follow-up post on the social media page said: "Once again we apologise if we haven't come down your street. We were nearly 2hrs late due to our technical issues."

Festive jobs we love and loathe

MOST of us love decorating the tree at Christmas, but we also loathe the job of taking it down and unravelling those Christmas lights. That's just two of a string of festive jobs and customs we either can't live with or can't face Christmas without, according to a new study from HomeServe.

The Walsall-based household repairs and insurance group found Christmas dinner is the one thing most UK homeowners can't live without when it comes to the season's favourite festive traditions, followed by quality time with their families.

HomeServe asked festive-related questions of more than 2,000 homeowners. When it comes to festive jobs

Bin depot back in operation after fire

WALSALL'S main bin depot which was nearly destroyed in a blaze, was set to be back up and running this week - ending weeks of disruption to bin collections.

Recent heavy snowfall added to the delays suffered by residents in the borough since an accidental fire broke out at Fryers Road Household Waste Re-cycling Centre in Bloxwich.

Walsall Council confirmed roofing contractors were on site last week and would work through the weekend to ensure the facility was back in operation on Monday, coinciding with the

annual December switch to weekly household waste collections on the same day which will help tackle any backlog.

The council is still counting the cost of repairs as well as the additional fees racked up by having to transport waste to Veolia's site in Four Ashes.

Tackle

More than 70 firefighters were required to tackle the blaze which broke out on Sunday, November 5.

The incident carried on over until the following morning.

Councillor Chris Jones, the authority's waste chief, revealed it was initially feared the site would have to be demolished due to the extent of the damage. A council spokesman said: "The timing is perfect as it coincides with the move to weekly collections over the Christmas period."

"The costings are still being worked on."

"There is the cost incurred of tackling the waste elsewhere and also the cost of the repairs, but obviously with workers still on site we won't know what it will be until next week."



Tackling the fire at the recycling depot

Campaigners say lives at risk with rat-run

A COUNTRY lane is being used as a dangerous rat-run by speeding traffic including lorries, say campaigners who are demanding action.

Those living near Old Hall Lane in Barr Beacon claim the route is too narrow for many of the lorries they say regularly breach the 7.5 ton weight restriction.



The flipped over car

They also claim speed is an issue on the 30mph stretch which passes Barr Beacon School. Now residents, and Walsall South MP Valerie Vaz, want action taken over problems they say are prevalent on Pinfold Lane.

After frequent road traffic collisions in recent years - including one where a car flipped onto its roof - they are campaigning for improved safety measures and signage.

Mick Hawker, aged 70, from Pinfold Lane, said: "We have been incessant about this for about four or five years. My friend had his car written off there. HGVs use it when they are not supposed to. There is a 7.5 ton limit but no-one monitors it."

"In some places it is 12ft two inches wide. There are no pavements for people to walk on. The way the mothers and fathers park at the school in the morning, they are putting their own children at risk. It was not built for motorway traffic, it was built for tractors."

In September, headteacher Lynsey Draycott issued a plea to parents not to park dangerously outside the school after a Year 8 pupil was struck by a car.

Mrs Vaz met with residents on Friday and has backed proposals for legislation ordering HGV drivers to use commercial navigation devices to stop them using inappropriate routes.

Transport chief, Walsall councillor Lee Jeavons, said: "We have introduced traffic calming measures and 20 mph speed limit zones, so safety aspects have been addressed. It's the responsibility of the police to enforce this."

Best festive fun – Barr none!



Friends from Phasey get into the Christmas swing of things



Bearing up – the Lloyd family



Having fun on one of the rides

THE festive spirit came to one of Walsall's most-loved beauty spots over for the return of a popular community event.

The historic Barr Beacon site welcomed thousands of visitors of all ages at various times over the last few weeks, with the site opened up for members of the public to enjoy a unique Christmas experience on December 8, 9, 10, 15, 16 and 17.

Among the attractions for Christmas on the Beacon was a children's funfair, grotto, licensed bar, tented theatre show, animal petting zoo, food festival, craft fair and elf hunt.

Councillor Adrian Andrew, chair of the Barr Beacon Community Trust, said the organisation was 'delighted' to support the event. He said: "I have been to Christmas on the Beacon in the past and it is always a well organised and popular event."

"I have heard nothing but good things about this years event and I would like to congratulate all of the team behind it for maintaining their high standards. This is exactly the type of event we want to have on Barr Beacon, it brings the community together and makes good use of our beauty spot."

In October, the Barr Beacon Trust gave approval for grounds to be dug at the site and walls of rubble to be put in place to prevent traveller access as part of new security measures.

NEWS IN BRIEF

M6 J10 project moves forward

COUNCIL bosses have approved a proposal for the £65 million revamp of M6 Junction 10, stating it will unlock 'massive regeneration potential' for the area.

The decision by Walsall Council's cabinet will now see the authority start negotiations to acquire the 4.5 acres needed to deliver the development, which will see the two main bridges crossing the motorway rebuilt and surrounding roads widened.

Councillor Lee Jeavons, regeneration chief, said: "The junction will be renewed to improve access and flow and this will unlock massive regeneration potential for the borough."

Have say on new landlord scheme

PEOPLE can have their say on a proposal that aims to tackle rogue landlords and improve private rented housing conditions in Walsall.

Private landlords, letting agents, local businesses and residents are being urged to have their say. If approved, private landlords will be required to ensure the properties they let out meet a range of licensing conditions.

The scheme, known as selective licensing, is proposed for Willenhall as well as Walsall town centre.

For more information go to go.walsall.gov.uk/selective_licensing

Firm's £38m for work on sewers

SEVERN Trent Water is being rewarded for doing better than expected in reducing sewer flooding.

The UK water utility regulator said it would receive £38.4 million as an out-performance payment.

All water companies agreed to improve their performance for the 2015 to 2020 period based on customer consultation.

Those that under perform receive penalties while over-performer receive payments under Ofwat's outcome delivery incentives programme. £11.4m will be paid out next year.

Soul legend Warwick has Second City date

ICONIC American singer, actress and television show host Dionne Warwick will perform in Birmingham next autumn.

The 77-year-old, famed for songs such as Walk On By and Do You Know The Way to San Jose, will play the Symphony Hall on her Don't Make Me Over tour, alongside an orchestra, on September 20.

Tickets will be priced between £48 and £68. Go to thsh.co.uk for details.

TAYLORS AUTO

Our Promise, not only do we guarantee you an honest MOT, we also only charge

£29.99
(Servicing & tyres available)

Tel: 01543 372673

Sunnyside Farm, Northgate, Walsall Wood, West Midlands WS9 9BU



MOT
Class 4 Cars and
Class 7 Vans

Advanced Denture Solutions

- Full dentures can be made in one week
- Denture repairs
- Home visits available

£100 Off
A New Set of
Dentures
(Until end of
January only)

Clinical Dental
Technician

K. Browne
G.D.C. No. 214338

t: 01827 68795
m: 07866 408961

Advanced Denture Solutions is a private
clinical dental laboratory

35 Victoria Road
Tamworth, Staffs
B79 7HU

Fantastic savings on bedrooms this week



SALE STARTS 27TH DECEMBER

autumn
leaves **furniture outlet**

Open Mon-Sat 10am - 5pm - **closed Sunday**

www.furnitureformodernliving.co.uk

Unit 36 Hall lane
Walsall Wood
Walsall
WS9 9AS

Tel: 01922 454454

Warning by Severn Trent of bogus call

SEVERN Trent is warning its customers to be extra vigilant following reports of bogus phone callers claiming to be from the company threatening to cut off supplies.

Customers have received calls from a person who then threatened to stop water the following morning because of an unpaid bill. Elaine Taylor, of Severn Trent, said: "We often hear about people trying to access homes by saying they're from 'the water board' but this kind of phone call is unusual and obviously worrying."

For more information, go to water.co.uk/doorstep-password or call 08457 500 500.

Event to support disease survivors

SURVIVORS of meningitis are being invited to a charity day in March.

Meningitis Now is holding the event in Birmingham, but is inviting people from across the West Midlands.

It is designed to give people the opportunity to learn more about the different aspects of recovery and the after-effects of the disease, and provide practical skills and information.

The event will take place in Austin Court in central Birmingham on March 12.

Log onto www.meningitisnow.org/how-we-help/ways-we-can-help-you/about-our-services/support-events/rebuilding-futures-day-2018/ for details.

245 guns handed in over two weeks

AN AK-47, a Tommy Gun and shotguns – just some of the 245 weapons handed in to West Midlands police during a two-week firearms amnesty.

More than 100 working firearms including rifles, shotguns, revolvers and handguns were surrendered during the campaign. Silencers, starting pistols, and two deactivated machine guns were also taken to police stations. Det Insp Rod Rose said: "For everybody who decided to hand in a weapon may I say thank you."

Consultations due on £282m scheme

PUBLIC consultations on designs for a new £282m junction on the M42 near Birmingham will launch in the new year.

A new 2.4km dual carriageway link road will be created as part of a project to improve traffic flows at an important junction for the millions of people that travel to Birmingham International Airport every year as well as surrounding venues such as the NEC.

Centre tells customers about campaign



Steve Edis, Roy Lees and Dave Sims at Walsall Training Centre with donations

STAFF have been digging deep to help our Feed a Family This Christmas campaign.

Walsall Training Centre, which provides courses and assessments for gas, plumbing, electrical or construction trade sectors is the latest business to back the appeal.

They have collected dozens of items of food as well as toiletries, clothing and toys, which will go to help those in need during the festive period.

Steve Edis, director of the training centre, said he was delighted to support the campaign.

"We try to support local food banks at this time of year, as we know there are a lot of families struggling at Christmas," he said.

Readers have donated festive food such as mince pies, chocolates and Christmas puddings, as well as basics including canned goods, long-life milk, fruit juice, pasta and rice. Non-food

items such as toiletries, baby supplies, new socks and small presents have also come flooding in.

Since the campaign launched on November 4, we've had support from an array of organisations and schools across the region.

PTP Training has backed the appeal along with Healthwatch Wolverhampton, while Saddlers Shopping Centre in Walsall has come on board to collect donations.

24 schools fail to hit required standards

TWENTY-FOUR primary schools in the Black Country, Staffordshire and Wyre Forest failed to hit expected standards in reading, writing and maths, according to new figures.

Department for Education data has highlighted the two dozen schools across the region considered to be under-performing after the most recent Sats examinations.

Schools are considered to be under-performing if fewer than 65 per cent of pupils reach the expected standard in reading, writing and maths – or if they fail to make sufficient progress in the three key areas.

Eight schools in Walsall, five in Dudley, four in Sandwell, three in Kidderminster, two in Staffordshire and one in Wolverhampton were deemed to have failed to reach the standards. Across the West Midlands region, 21,148 pupils from 71 schools did not reach the Government's floor standard.

Walsall Council cabinet member for children's services and education Aftab Nawaz said teachers across the region 'are doing the best they can under extreme circumstances'.

"What we have to understand is that since 2010 and the onset of austerity schools have been wholly underfunded. In Walsall we want every school to be outstanding or good and pupils to get the highest grades possible – we are on that journey and we will get there.

Nationally, 61 per cent of 11-year-olds who sat this year's Sats – or national curriculum tests – met Government targets in all three areas compared with 53 per cent last year, figures reveal.

Knifeman threat during shop raid

A MAN brandishing a knife forced workers into a staff room before making off with cash from a Poundland shop. Police were called to the store, in Walsall Road, Great Barr, at the Scott Arms junction at around 12.30pm last Wednesday.

West Midlands Police say the knifeman entered the busy shop and threatened staff inside. It is believed he pushed workers into a staff room before making off with an unknown quantity of cash.

A force spokeswoman said there were no reported injuries. A spokeswoman for Poundland said: "We can confirm the police were called to our Great Barr store."

Anyone with information is asked to call police on 101, quoting log 876 of December 13.

Your generosity sees donations flooding in

YOUR incredible generosity in donating food to our Feed A Family This Christmas appeal will have a tangible effect for those in need across the Black Country.

Once again, thousands of items have flooded in to ensure people who, for whatever reason, rely on a food bank for a meal at Christmas time will not go without.



Our drop off points have been kept very busy during the four-week campaign thanks to the amazing kindness of you, our readers, and the wider community.

To highlight just how important food banks and keeping them stocked up can be, the Express & Star visited The Good Shepherd Ministry at Darlington Street Methodist Church in Wolverhampton to speak with people who have been given a lifeline by the volunteers who put themselves out to ensure others don't go without.

Helen Holloway, admin manager at the Good Shepherd, said: "The problem isn't going away and unfortunately food banks are more vital than ever."

The Good Shepherd Ministry also offers those who show the most enthusiasm for taking any opportunity they can get a place on their Service Volunteer Programme.

One such person who has taken on this responsibility is Heriberto Garcia Vazquez, 52, who travels via bus from Birmingham every day to help out. He started out as a food bank service user but is now a major part of the operation. He said: "These guys are like my family and I love it, I don't mind what they need me to do I will do it."

Maxine Price and Stephen Dale, who are engaged and live in Merridale, were both given a meal by volunteers during the Express & Star's visit to the Good Shepherd Ministry and had nothing but praise.

Maxine said: "The volunteers here are lovely, they are really here for people and make a difference. They have helped us in so many ways recently, not just with meals but with assistance that is crucial to our day to day lives."



Volunteer Heriberto Garcia Vazquez in the kitchen



Stephen Dale and Maxine Price at the ministry



Good Shepherd admin manager Helen Holloway

Kind pupils hand over their party food



Pupils from Westcroft School at the E&S

SCHOOLCHILDREN have shown their caring nature by donating food left over from their Christmas party to our Feed A Family appeal.

Youngsters at Westcroft School in Wolverhampton were given the choice of keeping it for a later date or handing it over to help those less fortunate – they all voted to donate them. They have also been busy collecting hundreds of other donations of food, toilet-

ries and toys, which they then delivered to the Express & Star head office.

These are being passed on to food banks and other good causes across the Black Country and Staffordshire.

Older pupils at the school, for students with complex learning needs, have been taught about some of the challenges people face in their lives in their citizenship and independent living skills lessons.



Holidays from £10

per person*

STARTING SOON

www.expressandstar.co.uk/holidaysfrom10pounds

*Minimum booking of a family of four. Online booking fee of £3.00 applies. Token / password collection. Service and optional entertainment charges may apply. Terms and conditions apply, see www.expressandstar.co.uk/holidaysfrom10pounds for details.

Express & Star

Vow to put people up at shelter, as beds run out

DEMAND has exceeded capacity at Walsall's winter homeless shelter in less than a fortnight.

The venue at Darwall Street opened on Friday, November 29, providing 26 beds, but since then around 30 people have already registered.

Some of the existing beds have broken prompting a public appeal for support while it is feared there are more rough sleepers out there. The shelter has also had to open as early as 2.30pm – opposed to the usual time of 8pm – amid the heavy snowfall.

The YMCA, commissioned to run the centre on behalf of Walsall Council, has also had to turn down people from Cannock, Wolverhampton and Birmingham who have asked to use the centre. Despite the high demand the council has vowed no-one from the town will be turned away.

Fire inspectors have stated the property can accommodate up to 50 people, although many will have to be content with a place on the floor.

The site at Darwall Street, the council's former electoral registration offices, was chosen because it was bigger than last year's venue which was set up at the Glebe Centre in Caldmore. While this year it is open for three months instead of one.

Social care chief Councillor Diane Coughlan said: "We have had people from Wolverhampton, Cannock and Walsall ringing up but we opened the shelter to solve our own problems. It is already at capacity, but the fire safety officer said it can take 50 people. We won't be turning people away."

Jean Garwood, night shelter coordinator, said: "We had 29 people in here on Sunday. We only have 26 beds but people are just happy to be inside."

Swiftly backing health campaign

WALSALL FC's mascot has got behind a scheme encouraging people aged between 40 and 74 to get free NHS health checks.

Swiftly, along with the club's community programme, is working alongside Public Health Walsall on the project.

The national screening programme helps to prevent stroke, heart disease, Type 2 diabetes and kidney disease and increase awareness of lifestyle behaviour associated with dementia.

Community Director for Walsall FC, Adam Davy, said: "This is one of those initiatives that sit high on the agenda as it is tackling a health issue in our town.

"The health of our residents is important and we hope by helping raise the awareness we have managed to engage with people."

Drones gang smuggled drugs into jails



Drones were used at Featherstone

A PROSECUTOR has condemned the actions of a gang who used drones to smuggle items into Midland prisons.

The group of 11 men and women have been jailed for more than 37 years. They were made up of serving prisoners in various jails and their accomplices on the outside.

Between July 2015 and May this year, the gang trafficked banned items such as drugs, mobile phones, SIM cards, Freeview boxes, hacksaw blades and screwdrivers into prisons including HMP Hewell, Featherstone, Birmingham and Oakwood.

They wrapped items together in packages, sometimes concealing them in drink bottles, before throwing them into the prison grounds or flying them in using drones. The recovered drugs were found to have an estimated value in prison of up to £370,000. At Birmingham Crown Court, 10 out of the 11 defendants pleaded guilty and one was found guilty after a trial.

Eran Cutcliffe, from the CPS, said: "This was a highly organised gang who worked in an extremely co-ordinated manner. The gang members sought to profit from the misery

caused by prison drug use." Craig Hickinbottom, who directed the operation from behind bars, was jailed for seven years and two months. The 35-year-old, who was a prisoner at HMP Featherstone, and later HMP Hewell, organised deliveries to both jails. He admitted four counts of conspiring to bring contraband into prison, and conspiracy to supply psychoactive substances.

Drone pilot Mervyn Foster, 36, of High Street, Tipton, received a sentence of six years and eight months for his part in the conspiracy.

Letter praising hospice staff gets royal approval

A DYING woman was so grateful for the care she received at St Giles Hospice that she wrote a letter to the Queen praising staff – and asking her to visit.

Despite knowing she was nearing the end of her life, Norma Broadhurst, aged 78, of Churchill Road, Bentley, in Walsall, was determined to give staff at the Goscote Lane hospice the recognition they deserved.

She dictated the letter to her sisters, insisting they send her message to Buckingham Palace.

Although Norma died on October 17, her grieving family were thrilled to receive a reply from the palace and felt comforted knowing Norma's act of kindness had prompted a royal response.

Norma's husband David, 72, said: "Norma spent her final days at St Giles and she absolutely loved it there.

"The NHS and hospice staff were tremendous – they couldn't do enough for her. They made sure she was comfortable and sorted out her medication and she really relaxed.

Personality

"She became more mellow and felt well enough to have a laugh and a joke.

"Norma called St Giles 'her palace' and her whole personality changed.

"She started to talk posh, and act all regal so people nicknamed her 'Queenie'.

"Everybody was so kind and attentive to Norma – and to all of her family – from the doctors and nurses to the cleaners and she became especially close to chaplain Keith Duncan, who she asked to conduct her funeral."

Norma, one of eight sisters from Walsall, was first diagnosed with cancer 16 years ago when she beat breast cancer, and eight years ago she fought Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

In 2013, she was diagnosed with terminal secondary bone cancer. But she was able to live life to the full until eight months ago when her health began to rapidly decline.

Norma's sister Margaret Sheedy, 68, from Norton Canes, said: "Norma was very poorly by the time she went in to St Giles but the staff were wonderful to her. "She settled in and suddenly started speaking and behaving really posh – nobody knows



Norma seen, above left, with her husband David on their wedding day and right, the couple in later life



Norma's letter which was sent praising the hospice



The reply from one of the Queen's ladies-in-waiting

NEWS IN BRIEF

Land Rover nearly sinks in marina



Emergency services personnel on site

A LAND Rover plunged into freezing waters forcing paramedics to search for anyone inside.

Emergency services rushed to the Bloxwich marina after discovering the vehicle was partly submerged.

Paramedics and firefighters scoured the scene for any casualties shortly after 8.30am last Wednesday.

West Midlands Police spokeswoman Caroline Schubert confirmed no-one was trapped inside the vehicle at Arrowcraft Marina, Sneyd Wharf.

Police were joined by West Midlands Ambulance Service's hazardous area response team and West Midlands Fire Service's technical rescue team. A fire service boat was also used to search the water.

UKIP members in vow to stay loyal

UKIP'S remaining members on Walsall council have vowed to stick with the party despite losing a colleague.

Brownhills ward representative Councillor Stephen Craddock has abandoned the pro-Brexit party, confirming on Walsall Council's website that he is now an independent.

It leaves just two UKIP members on the authority – husband and wife Darren and Liz Hazell, for Short Heath and Willenhall North respectively.

Councillor Liz Hazell said the party still had a role to play.

She added: "I was elected UKIP and I intend to remain UKIP. Everyone at the council is up for election next year so we don't know what will happen."

Major delays after person hit by train

RAILWAY services between London and the West Midlands were badly disrupted after a person was hit by a train.

The incident blocked all lines between Watford Junction and London Euston last Thursday from 5pm.

It meant services from London to Birmingham, and Wolverhampton, were cancelled, with trains starting their route towards the West Midlands from Milton Keynes Central instead.

Services resumed later in the evening. Bus replacement services were offered from Milton Keynes and Luton Airport Parkway.

Rail operators also took passengers on routes around the blocked area.

Cannock Fireplaces & Stoves

SALE

SPECTACULAR 5 DAY SALE

Starts Wednesday 27th December from 9.30am

Take an extra 10% off sale prices for 5 days only

One of the largest displays of multi fuel stoves, gas fires and surrounds in the Midlands



IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Banks – not wine bars but reason to whine on

A FEW years ago, NatWest bank had an advertising slogan which was, if nothing else, repetitive.

It seemed that every time you switched the TV on there was some customer groaning "my bank's now a trendy wine bar." The message was clear. Unlike other banks, NatWest realised that to serve customers you actually had to have a network of branches they can go to.

How times have changed. NatWest has just announced the closure of 197 branches, saying that more people are turning to internet banking, with the number of people calling into branches falling by 40 per cent since 2014. Maybe so, but I guess if you keep closing branches – and cutting hours – then you are bound to see fewer people calling into them.

The company suggests that people may prefer to use a "banking app" instead. Now I don't really know what a banking app is, but I'm fairly certain I wouldn't prefer to use it. What happens if somebody nicks your dog and bone? How many passwords are we expected to remember?

I can see why banks want more people to move online. The latest closure programme will see staff numbers cut by 680, and think of all the money saved on rent, rates and utility bills. But what's in it for the customer? The very thought of having my bank account at the mercy of the hackers brings me out in a cold sweat. The idea that I would have my life savings in an account protected only by a password I will struggle to remember seems utterly ridiculous, even if the interest rate is half a per cent higher.

Of course, given the state of the licensed trade, it is probably unlikely that any of the latest NatWest branches will become trendy wine bars.

Perhaps there should be a new advertising campaign. "My bank's boarded up and covered in graffiti."

□ □ □

IN case you hadn't noticed we had a bit of snow last week. I know it took a few people by surprise, but these things tend to happen in December.

Now I don't want to go all Four Yorkshiremen on you, but I live on the top of a hill and drove 25 miles to work through what was supposed to be the coldest place in the country. It really isn't that hard; just pack a shovel, broom, and extra food, set out a bit earlier and take a different route. Anyone can do it.

It's funny how one of the things which seems to bring out the snowflakes is, well, a few snowflakes.

Technical crooks don't know how to use a hacksaw



Prince Edward – chose strange outfit for a formal photograph at his home



Pope Francis wants to drop 'lead us not into temptation' from the Lord's Prayer



Michael Gove – says leaving the EU might improve animal-welfare standards

Unlocking the way to deter car thieves

TRAVELLING in a mate's smart new car the other day, I noticed a steering-wheel lock on the back seat. Remember those? There was a time, in the days when car locks were dead easy to pick, when a bright yellow disc bolted to your steering wheel was a deterrent. Next, for a few years, car locks became really hard to crack; then they got too keylessly hi-tech for their own good. Today, thanks to the magic of the microchip, any scally with the right electronic gizmo can drive off any limo he chooses. Hence the rebirth of the humble steering-wheel lock, the ultimate deterrent against crooks who are experts on computer programming but don't know how to use a hacksaw.

ON a visit to Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, Environment Secretary Michael Gove says leaving the EU might allow Britain to impose higher animal-welfare standards and combat puppy smuggling. Why was this not mentioned during the referendum campaign? Why were our heartstrings not tugged by the ultimate campaign slogan? Vote Brexit - or the puppies get it.

POPE Francis wants to drop "lead us not into temptation" from the Lord's Prayer, on the grounds that God does not lead humans to sin. His Holiness suggests replacing it with "do not let us fall into temptation," explaining: "It's Satan who leads us into temptation, that's his department."

HANG on a moment. The only reason that Satan can tempt humans is that the Almighty made us so very temptable (remember that

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



unfortunate business with the apple and serpent?). Most of the Old Testament is about God creating sinners and then punishing them for sinning. It's a bit daft which may explain why the priesthood kept the Bible in Latin for so many centuries and had a plentiful supply of firewood to deal with any peasant heard uttering the words: "It's a bit daft."

KIDS at a primary school in Telford who forgot their PE kit were invited to take part wearing their underpants. At least one parent complained but the authorities insisted that all the pupils enjoyed the lesson. I bet. I recall with a shudder being sent into the school swimming bath naked, aged 12, having carelessly left my trunks at home. Everyone enjoyed that, too. Except me. I really must sort out that claim for post-traumatic stress.

HE is 53 and presumably allowed to choose his own clothes. So whatever possessed Prince Edward to pose for a formal photograph at his home, Bagshot Park, wearing a bow tie, velvet smoking jacket, tartan trousers and monogrammed slippers? Most odd.

CLASSY response to my item on the snowflake generation from a reader who points out: "I

don't object to the term Snowflake. We're seeing at the moment what they can do when they get together, aren't we?" At the time he wrote, a few billion snowflakes flexed their muscles and paralysed the nation. But then they very quickly got overheated and ran away.

OUR changing language. According to the BBC website: "The snow showers have swept across into London." Meanwhile, Mail Online reports someone being 'murdered to death'.

WE are still a long way from being a fully online society. The Office for National Statistics reckons nearly half of single pensioners have no internet access. And it's a fair guess that many of these older folks are claiming benefits, or at least trying to. Any Answers (Radio 4) took a call from a woman who, having no internet access in her home, had to use a computer at her local library to apply for benefit. When her passport and driving licence were not accepted for identification purposes, the system advised her to download an app to her smartphone. Seriously. That was my angriest moment of the week and I dare say some of you shared it.

MY sympathy for starving songbirds evaporated in the first 48 hours of Ye Great Freeze. If the little idiots would only eat, instead of posing and posturing at each other, they would fare a lot better. Robins bully blackbirds who bully tits who bully wagtails who waste hundreds of calories wagging, as the name suggests, their tails. So much wasted energy, so little brainpower.

TALKING POINT



Payouts are taking cash from those in real need

IT'S good to know that, while the country awaits the outcome of Brexit negotiations, there are still some inevitabilities during uncertain times.

We can all be sure of death, taxes and Australia winning the Ashes. Now, it seems unwanted phone calls are a constant. We have all had them. People trying to sell you something, claims for PPI, better energy deals. But in this day and age of cost-cutting and austerity, it seems there is a new scourge on society, spurious accident claims.

'Have You Had An Accident At Work?' the helpline commercial yells. "Our records tell me you've had an accident recently," says the voice on the phone.

And they know that how, exactly? Of course the standard response would be something along the lines of: "No, but you will have one if you keep calling." Or throw them completely by claiming your head fell off, like comedian Rob Beckett.

Seriously, though, it seems the compensation craze is the latest fad. Often we hear of members of the public making spurious claims for minor incidents – or in some cases no accident at all – just to cash in. More astonishingly, supposedly cash-strapped authorities are paying out.

Croydon Council, for example, paid out nearly £6 million in personal injury claims over the last three years. These, staggeringly included £43,000 to a child who needed surgery to remove a splinter after sitting on a playground bench.

There was an £81,000 to a claimant who broke a leg by jumping over the gate at a locked car park and another payout of £181,000 to someone who tripped on a pavement damaged during works. And let's not forget the £18,000 for the schoolboy hit by a javelin during a PE lesson.

A police officer even received £12,000 after being bitten by a flea, while in August a woman was 'hit' by a taxi in an alleged attempt to cash in. The taxi firm's boss admitted that without the dashcam footage, they would not have been protected against a potential payout.

John O'Connell, of the TaxPayers' Alliance, said the 'compensation culture' diverted cash from essential services such as social care and road maintenance.

Too right. With the NHS in dire straits, care homes closing and important transport links axed, one can see his point. But these claimants serve to line their own pockets without a thought for what taxpayers' money is spent on. We all know how The Boy Who Cried 'Wolf' ends. We can only hope for a similar outcome when these 'injured parties' really are hurt.

MARK SHIPP

Buy and sell with ClassifiedAds



ClassifiedAds

BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

1

Visit our ClassifiedAds website
classifiedads.expressandstar.co.uk



2

Call our Classified sales team
on 01902 317 878



3

Self Serve - Create your own advert
in print and online - visit:
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk



EU actions over Brexit are pathetic

HAVING read the letter from Alan Davis, E&S, 2nd December, I agree wholeheartedly with his summing up of the current situation regarding the fiasco that is the EU.

Because of Theresa May's gentle, polite approach we are coming across to the rest of the world as a weak entity from all angles, instead of a force to be reckoned with.

When push comes to shove eventually Brussels will be laughing up their sleeves as to how long they have manipulated the lady into pouring more and more millions into their coffers. This great country of ours will

Farewell to a favourite character

MARGARET 'Missy' Bates passed away peacefully on November 25. She was well-known and respected as head of Red House School nursery unit, a position she held for so long, setting many hundreds of confident and capable children on the road of education, preparing them for the reception classes.

She was noted for her lovely singing voice, which she still had even at 90, both as a lead singer and as part of the Walsall Gilbert and Sullivan group – with wonderful productions over many years. Her funeral was taking place at Streetly Crematorium yesterday, Wednesday, at the East Chapel at 12 noon. Her wishes were for no black attire or flowers, with any donations please to Children in Need, or WaterAid.

A chance meeting at the Tuesday coffee morning at the Methodist Church in Aldridge was the start of our long relationship, for over 20 years. She will always remain part of me.

RAY HAMMOND
Aldridge

not sink if we come out of this mess without a trade agreement.

There is a big wide world out there which, commercially speaking, wants to flourish with free trade and we can do it together.

The latest message from Brussels is that Great Britain can no longer put her cities forward in the annual bid to become City of Culture. That smacks to me of petulant school children saying 'you can't play in our yard if you don't do as we say'. Pathetic.

PAULINE POOLE
Willenhall

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Walsall Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Code of Practice:
Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can.
The Chronicle adheres to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at www.ipso.co.uk. If you are unhappy with the accuracy of a

EMAIL

[walsall.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:walsall.chron@expressandstar.co.uk)



For press freedom
with responsibility

story, write to The Editor,
Chronicles, 51-53 Queen
Street, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1ES

Making the case for an Irish referendum

WHAT'S missing from Peter Rhodes' and Nigel Hastilow's articles about Northern Ireland? Any acknowledgment that its electorate voted by a substantial margin to remain in the European Union.

There could even be a case for a referendum under the terms of the Good Friday agreement to allow voters to decide whether to remain in the UK, and thereby leave the EU, or to remain in the EU by joining the Irish Republic.

It probably won't come to

that. Here's why. People in Northern Ireland have the right to both British and Irish passports.

Beatrice from Bilston and Bernadette from Belfast have the same degree from the same university.

On March 30, 2019, Bernadette will still have the right, through her Irish passport, to pursue her career in 28 countries. Beatrice will have the right to work in just one. Nice job, Brexiters!

ALAN T HARRISON
Walsall

Excuses on Green Party

DAVID Belcher has found yet more excuses to explain the Green Party's failure to address the problem of overpopulation. He points out that coercion has been adopted by totalitarian regimes but he has never considered what might be done by a programme of information and education.

If his party could start telling people that to produce more than two children is something which responsible parents should avoid in this modern world it might start doing some good. The arithmetic is very simple so what is the problem?

The real reason that the Green Party is afraid to do this is that to suggest to people that they should limit their families is a vote loser and they do not want to alienate the already tiny number of their followers.

JOHN LESTER
Walsall

EU countries doing better

E GUY tells us that he knows more than the 16 million who voted remain. He says that Germany and France are no longer great and the others are holding us to ransom.

All other EU countries economies are growing faster than ours and as for holding us to ransom I suggest you think about the small number of DUP members who are manipulating this country at will.

The only sad, sorry thing about remainers, E Guy, is that they have to read nonsense like yours.

ROGER WATTS
Walsall



See our website to view our full ranges and options

www.glideandslide.co.uk

Tel: 01543 679202

QUALITY SLIDING DOOR SYSTEMS



10% OFF
with this advert
(excluding composite doors)

EMAIL: INFO@GLIDEANDSLIDE.CO.UK

FOR A FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTE, PLEASE CALL US ON: 01543 679202

- Made to order, with a large choice of colours and finishes
- Delivery direct to home or site

Composite GRP Doors from £410.00 + VAT



www.glideandslide.co.uk

Unit 3, Northgate Buisness Park, Northgate, Aldridge, Walsall WS9 8TH

Beaumont Pink Princess Bed
£199.99

Gift Idea

also available in other sizes and colours

Windsor Pink Princess Bed
£199.99

NEW

Cambridge Industrial Metal Bed
from **£119.99**

NEW

Madrid LED Beds
from **£199.99**

Gift Idea

Storage Ottomans
£79.99

Gift Idea

Velvet Chairs
from **£99.99**

Gift Idea

New Wooden Beds
Range from only **£99.99**

NEW

Brooklyn Sofa Bed
£189.99

NEW

Open 7 days a week

Mon-Sat: 10:00 - 5:00

Sun: 11:00 - 4:00

www.crazypricebeds.com

Beecham Business Park

Northgate

Aldridge, Walsall

WS9 8TZ

0800 949 9500

@CrazyPriceBedsAldridge

shop@crazypricebeds.com

The Sandwell Funeral Service In partnership with Trinity Funerals



Cremation £1,595

What's included:

- ✓ Your loved one being taken into the care of our partner, Trinity Funerals.
- ✓ Your loved one's coffin.
- ✓ The funeral service will be held at either Sandwell Valley Crematorium, or Rowley Regis Crematorium, family to choose.
- ✓ Cremation and Doctor's fee paid.
- ✓ A Minister to conduct the funeral service.
- ✓ Music choices of which any can be selected for entry and exit and during the service, via Wesley Media.

For more information or to discuss a burial please call us on
0121 569 6700 or email us at
bereavement_services@sandwell.gov.uk

It is recommended that you speak to a number of funeral directors to compare funeral costs.
www.sandwell.gov.uk/lowcostfunerals

SADDLERS' VISIT

A festive boost



Goalkeeper Mark Gillespie with Abbie Kempton, aged 15 from Darlaston



Saddlers manager Jon Whitney and Isha Hanif, aged four, from Park Hall



Swiftly and Kieron Morris with Lisa Howell and Brody Ramsden, aged two



Senior play specialist, Angela Kelly with defender Liam Kinsella

THERE were smiles all round as Walsall FC players visited a hospital to spread some Christmas joy.

As is their Christmas tradition, the footballers, their manager Jon Whitney and mascot Swiftly visited Walsall Manor Hospital to



Corey Beecham from Beechdale, on his sixth birthday, with Jordan Sangha hand out gifts to the children and meet other patients.

Captain Adam Chambers said: "We're here to bring a few smiles to a few faces. It is a difficult time for them and their families but hopefully us coming in today and handing out gifts is helping to cheer them up



Reece Flanagan, Kory Roberts, Amadou Bakayoko with Edna Webster of Walsall "It is difficult seeing kids going through this at such a young age so it really just shows what life is about and so we do everything we can to help."

Dee Beecham, aged 29, from Beechdale, was there with her six-year-old son Corey who was in hospital on his birthday.

WALSALL FIREPLACES

ESTABLISHED OVER 20 YEARS.

Largest Choice at the Lowest Prices "FREE no Obligation Surveys" "FREE Delivery"
"Expert Fitting Service Available"

WALSALL FIREPLACES
MASSIVE
FESTIVE SALE
28TH - 29TH DEC 11AM-4PM
UP TO 50% SAVINGS



48" Full Marble Fireplace With Downlights
Choice of **FREE GAS OR ELECTRIC FIRE**

Was ~~£1038.00~~ **NOW ONLY £699.00**

**MANY OTHER DESIGNS
AVAILABLE IN OUR SHOWROOM
NOT TO BE MISSED OFFERS**

**Walsall
Fireplaces**
TRADITIONAL SETTINGS

79-80 Ablewell Street
Walsall WS1 2EU

Tel: 01922 644407
www.walsallfireplaces.co.uk

OPENING HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
and Saturday Open 10.00am-4.00pm
Thursday Open 10.00am-1.00pm.
Sunday Closed



for Manor patients



One of the most popular players, midfield maestro Erhun Otzumer, far left and kneeling right, captain Adam Chambers with big fans, Gordon and Doreen Morris, and of course, Walsall FC's mascot Swifty

She explained that Corey had been having breathing problems.

She said: "He was diagnosed with asthma about six months ago and today his oxygen levels just won't stay up."

Dee added that she was delighted about the visit from

Saddlers. She added: "We have been in hospital for about 20 hours and it's his birthday so he has absolutely loved the visit from the team."

"He wanted to come back next year and I said there is no chance. It is great that the players are taking the time to

do this." The players, who were wearing their tracksuits, gave out a variety of presents including popular toys such as Lego boxes and colouring sets to the children.

Walsall Manager Jon Whitney said: "It is good for young players to realise the privileged



Members of Walsall's team arrive at the Manor Hospital



Pharmacy worker Mark Rainer with his hero Erhun Otzumer

position that we are in and it is a dream job for myself and the players.

"We need to share a bit of that with those in less privileged positions especially those in paediatric care."

● For more pictures go online to www.expressandstar.com

empire appliances

SPECIAL OPENING OFFERS

HUGE NEW SHOWROOM NEXT TO THE RANGE NOW OPEN



SINGLE OVENS	RANGE COOKERS	BUILT-IN DOUBLE OVENS
ELECTRIC COOKERS	CHEST FREEZERS	FRIDGE FREEZERS
GAS COOKERS	TABLE TOP COOKERS	UNDER COUNTER FRIDGES
TUMBLE DRYERS	DISHWASHERS	WASHING MACHINES
COOKER HOODS		

Christmas Opening Times
 Saturday 23rd December 9am-6pm
 Sunday 24th December CLOSED
 Christmas Day- CLOSED
 Boxing Day 10.30am-4.30pm
 Wednesday 27th December 9am-6pm
 Thursday 28th December 9am-6pm
 Friday 29th December 9am-6pm
 Saturday 30th December 9am-6pm
 Sunday 31st December CLOSED
 New Years Day CLOSED
 Tuesday 2nd January normal opening hours.

BELLING • STOVES • DE DIETRICH BAUMATIC •
 GORENJE • SERVIS • MONTPELLIER • SHARP
 LG • ICE KING • HOTPOINT • INDESIT
 BEKO • SMEG • STATESMAN • CDA • HOOVER CANDY

Unit 3 Venture Centre (Next to the Range Warehouse)
 Green Lane, Cannock, WS11 0JJ



Telephone
01543 544545

Email: sales@empireappliances.co.uk
 Website: www.empireappliances.co.uk

Proud supporters of
 Help
 Happy
 Help Others

empireappliances

Delivery and Installation available on all appliances

OPENING HOURS
 Monday - Saturday 9-6pm
 Sunday 10.30-4.30pm



Final whistle

GOAL

THE ONLY READ
 FOR REAL FANS
 EVERY MONDAY

To advertise in final whistle
 call our experienced sales team
 on 01902 31 31 31

Express & Star



Essington Mobility

Local service you can rely on

www.essingtonmobility.co.uk

Professional, Personal & Local

"LOW PRICES & EXPERT SERVICE"

STAIRLIFTS
 RENT FOR £10/wk*

Rapid fitting

New Stairlifts
 from
£995



01922 23 25 27

105 Green Lane, Leamore. WS3 2BN 50 High Street, Brownhills. WS8 6EL

*Subject to survey, installation charge and minimum rental period

beko **belini** **BOSCH** **Candy** **smeg** **CDA** **Huppert** **ingest**

BORSHCH

Gas & Electrical Superstore

Facebook Borschchelectric www.borshchelectric.co.uk MasterCard VISA

Birmingham Upper Trinity Street, Birmingham B9 4EG 0121 773 6361
Dudley Pear Tree Lane, Dudley DY2 0QU 01384 571 879
Erdington 1-41 Sutton Road, Erdington B23 6QH 0121 448 0202
Walsall Unit 17-19 Victorian Arcade WS1 1RE 01922 279927

Extended guarantee available • Minimum 12 months guarantee • Local delivery & installation • IER Best Large Independent Retailer of Domestic Appliance 2017

COOKING			LAUNDRY		
Built in Hobs	Built-in Single Ovens	Cookers	Tumble Dryers	Washing Machines	Dishwashers
FROM ONLY £79.99	FROM ONLY £129.99	FROM ONLY £149.99	FROM ONLY £99.99	FROM ONLY £129.99	FROM ONLY £139.99
Prices correct at the time of print			Stock subject to availability		

REFRIGERATION			HUGE SELECTION AVAILABLE		
Under counter refrigeration	Fridge Freezers	Integrated Frost Free Fridge Freezer	Washer Dryers	American Fridge Freezer	Range Cookers
FROM ONLY £99.99	FROM ONLY £149.99	FROM ONLY £199.99	FROM ONLY £239.99	FROM ONLY £359.99	FROM ONLY £399.99

PICTURES FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY

FREE DELIVERY FOR ORDERS OVER £150 WITH THIS VOUCHER within a 15 mile radius

T's and C's Apply

Gunman hijacks car being defrosted

A GUNMAN threatened a man while he was defrosting his car only to abandon the hijacking when he got stuck on the ice.

It was the first of three incidents, being treated as connected by detectives, amid a morning of drama in the Walsall area which culminated in a large armed police presence descending on Aldridge.

The events unfolded from 5.45am, last Tuesday at Central Close, Dudley Fields, in Bloxwich.

The victim said the assailant waved a gun at him ordering him out of his vehicle while he was waiting for ice to melt from the windows. But when the suspect tried to speed off in the car he got stuck on the driveway and then fled on foot.

Then at 7.15am a husband and wife were threatened with a suspected gun after a car hit their vehicle in Sutton Coldfield. The driver then pointed the firearm at them as he sped past. The couple were not hurt and the damage to their car was minor.

The third incident took place when a man got into a taxi in Northgate, Aldridge,

By Carl Jackson

holding what was thought to be a loaded gun.

The taxi driver went into a nearby service station to call police while the suspect remained in the car. But the man fled the area on foot and was sighted approaching Spar on Northgate which was subsequently cordoned off. West Midlands Police confirmed they arrested a man.

A spokeswoman said: "A 31-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence following three incidents involving a man with a suspected handgun in Bloxwich and Aldridge." Witnesses are asked to contact 101, giving reference 340 1212.

Indian restaurant winner speaks of joy



Badrul Hussain, manager at Regards

THE manager of the Express & Star's Indian Restaurant of the Year 2017 for Walsall has spoken of his pride at the achievement. The restaurant which prides itself on knowing its clientele – and describing them as family – has been crowned Walsall Indian Restaurant of the Year 2017.

Kirans Balti in Darlaston was runner-up to Aldridge's Regards, with Jewel Balti in Willenhall coming third.

Badrul Hussain, manager at Regards, said: "It feels very good, we're very happy we have won and our customers are very happy as well. This is the first award we have won – obviously the food is good and customers are very happy as long as the service is good."

"We have an offer on in the week so a lot of customers come for that. We have been here a long time and we pretty much know everybody. To be honest I enjoy working here. We get along with staff, it's like a family – it's a lovely clientele."

QUALITY GOODS AT COMPETITIVE PRICES!



Classic INTERIORS

SALE STARTS WEDNESDAY 27TH DECEMBER!

REFURBISHED SHOWROOM!



SALE PRICE – 2 & 3 SEATER SOFAS FROM £399!



FIREPLACES
ALL 48" MARBLE £599
ALL 54" MARBLE £699
 INCLUDING FREE SELECTED GAS OR ELECTRIC FIRE!



BEDS & MATTRESSES
 Single Divan & Mattress from only **£79**

We will beat any like for like quote **guaranteed!** **OPENING HOURS** Monday-Friday 9am-4.30pm Saturday 9am-4pm Sunday Closed

71 Park Road, Bloxwich WS3 3SW
 Tel: 01922 473880

SAVE £££'s!!!

Can you name fans in racist chants probe?



Half of the eight suspects are in the blue and yellow Shrewsbury Town colours in pictures released by police

CCTV images have been released of football fans allegedly involved in racist chanting after Walsall's clash with Shrewsbury Town.

The trouble flared between the rival fans at Bescot Railway Station on October 7 following the League One fixture which finished 1-1.

British Transport Police (BTP) said between 4.30pm and 8.30pm hundreds

of supporters started chanting at each other from across the platforms with the nature of the singing becoming more aggressive and racist. They have issued stills of eight suspects, four of which can be seen wearing the blue and yellow Shrewsbury Town colours.

Walsall FC have condemned the violence. A club spokesman said: "The club will work where necessary with BTP in their investigation into this incident."

It is not the first time the supporters from the local rivals have clashed.

A mass brawl broke out in Shrewsbury in October 2012 before a match which saw police officers injured as they stepped in. More than a dozen fans were eventually charged with violent disorder by police.

Their next scheduled meeting will be a League One match at 3pm on Saturday, March 10, at Shrewsbury Town's ground. A statement from BTP said: "If you recognise any of them, please call BTP on 0800 40 50 40 or text 61016, quoting reference number 224 of 12 December."

www.suddz.co.uk

Supply Only or Full Installation KITCHENS or BATHROOMS

3D DESIGN SERVICE

We guarantee to beat any quotation on a like for like basis*

*Terms & Conditions Apply

0% VAT FOR VAT FREE QUALIFYING CUSTOMERS

(Terms & Conditions Apply)

Suddz Bathrooms & Kitchens

Units 2/3, Smarts Business Park, Chase Road, Brownhills, WS8 6JN

Opening Hours - Mon, Weds, Thurs and Fri 9am-5pm, Tues 10am-3pm, Sat 10am - 4pm

Call now for a **FREE**, no obligation quote: **01543 379670**



WORCESTER NEWS

'...A TRULY GIANT DOSE OF FAMILY FRIENDLY JOY...'

GARETH GATES LISA RILEY DOREEN TIPTON
IAN ADAMS GRAHAM COLE ADAM C BOOTH



'...A 'PROPER' BRITISH PANTO...'

BLACK COUNTRY RADIO



'...A FUN PACKED PANTO...'

BEHIND THE ARRAS



Jack AND THE Beanstalk

THE GIANT PANTOMIME SPECTACULAR

'...AN ABSOLUTE BELTER...'

BIRMINGHAM MAIL

'...INFECTIOUSLY GOOD FUN...'

EXPRESS & STAR

WOLVERHAMPTON
GRAND
THEATRE

MUST END SUN 14 JAN 2018

01902 42 92 12 grandtheatre.co.uk

MEDIA PARTNER

Free
RADIO

LOCAL PARTNER

DUDLEY
TOWN COUNCIL

Reception Suite at Sandwell Valley Crematorium

A modern purpose built venue...

- ✿ Air conditioned private room for up to two hours
- ✿ Catering for up to 80 people
- ✿ Variety of menus to choose from
- ✿ Disabled access
- ✿ Fully licenced bar
- ✿ Car parking

where families are able to gather and reflect after a funeral service has taken place without the need to travel to another site.

For more information please contact:
t: 0121 569 6700/6702
w: sandwell.gov.uk/bereavement

Located on Newton Road,
West Bromwich, B71 3SX



Apartments in pipeline for old leather works

A LUXURY apartment block for 301 homes could be built on a historic former leatherworks, under new plans.

The 10-storey building has been earmarked for the former Argyle works on the corner of Navigation Street and Marsh Street, which have been described as 'extremely dilapidated' and dangerous.

Applicants Total Homes and Developers said the scheme will boost footfall around the revamped waterfront area.

They said there are also plans to invest in the Walsall Canal area through a financial agreement with the Canal and River Trust.

A design and access statement said: "The site is occupied by historic buildings of varying ages as well as some 1960s development. Historic assets include Williams House and the locally listed Greatrex House.

Structural

"Whilst these buildings are of historic interest and retain many period details to their facades, both are in a state of extreme dilapidation. A structural survey uncovered multiple serious and dangerous structural failings to both buildings, including fire damage, collapse of roof structures and extensive rotting to structural timbers, with the engineers recommending demolition and complete rebuilding.

"Whilst it is recognised that this will result in the loss of some of the area's historic fabric, it is considered development of the site is feasible only through a complete new build.

"Rather than trying to retain token parts of a historic facade without its original context or replicate a mock-historic style, the best way to create a high quality of design is to construct a new build that is honest to its time-period and embraces the changing character of the area."

Snow go for Simon's loco



Simon Patel spent hours crafting this detailed steam train out of snow using a bread knife, handsaw and a wood plane

HE has carved out a name for himself as a spectacular pumpkin sculptor in recent years – but it turns out Simon Patel, of Walsall, is also pretty handy at creating masterpieces out of snow.

While many have been out and about enjoying the white stuff making their own snowmen – Simon

Patel has gone one better.

On Sunday, after around eight inches worth of snow had fallen to the ground the 41-year-old took to his front garden and began crafting a stunningly detailed steam train. What is perhaps even more remarkable are the rudimentary tools he had at his disposal; a bread knife,

SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE



Britannia
Pine & Furniture

Specialists in Bespoke Oak, Pine, Painted and Reclaimed Furniture
A huge choice of quality Furniture in our fantastic two storey showroom



Bespoke Hallway Units – made on premises



Bespoke Kitchens – made on premises



Vermont Light Oak Collection



Kensington Chunky Oak Collection



Deluxe 100% solid oak range



Zenn range made from 100% solid oak



Monks benches made on premises



Rutland painted range made on premises

Shop online: www.britanniapine.co.uk Visit our [ebay](https://www.ebay.co.uk) shop: [handcraftedfurnitureuk](https://www.ebay.co.uk/handcraftedfurnitureuk)

Britannia Pine, Unit 9B Watling Street, Business Park, Cannock, Staffordshire WS11 9XG Tel: 01543 379888

Email: britanniap@aol.com Opening hours: Monday to Saturday 9am - 5pm; Sundays & Bank Holidays 10am - 4pm

CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE, CHRISTMAS DAY & BOXING DAY

www.britanniapine.co.uk



Violet shows some real animal magic



Violet Clark and headteacher Shaun Miles at St Luke's Primary, Cannock, after the schoolgirl's collection efforts

A KIND-HEARTED schoolgirl has collected a mountain of items to donate to two animal centres ahead of Christmas.

Violet Clark, aged eight, from Cannock, has encouraged donations of food and bedding which will be handed over to the Rosedene Animal Rescue Centre in Rushall and CAARS Animal Rescue Centre in Essington.

Her mother Nicola had to turn down Violet's effort to buy a new dog, but urged her daughter to put her efforts into supporting animals ahead of the festive period.

Nicola, 42, said: "I told her 'don't moan about it - do something about it'. She started to collect donations and I said we can take them over for Christmas.

"She plucked up the courage to ask her headteacher and he put it in the school newsletter and it's gone from there. I'm so proud of her, she's a really kind-hearted girl - she's just one of those children.

"We got a really good response from everyone connected with the school and Violet has also been out asking her neighbours and getting her dad to ask people at his work."

Fly-tipping fines total for region up to £120k

FLY-TIPPERS in the West Midlands were fined a combined £120,000 in the past year - up from just £12,000 four years ago - according to new figures.

Local authorities across the region secured 295 fly-tipping prosecutions in 2016-17, up from just 67 in 2012-13.

Statistics released by the Government show fly-tipping fines in the Midlands totalled £123,318 in 2016-17, a huge rise from 2012-13 when the combined fine was £12,954.

The West Midlands has bucked the national trend, which has seen the number of successful prosecutions brought by councils against fly-tippers fall to a record low.

There were more than one million fly-tipping incidents in England in 2016-17, equivalent to 114 every hour, according to figures published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

Nationally, the number of fixed penalty notices issued

By David Cosgrove

to fly-tippers has more than doubled, with 55,997 notices being handed out in 2016-17 across England.

In the West Midlands, 166 FPNs were dished out in 2012-13 - rising to 1,154 in the latest year.

Among the Black Country authorities handing out the fixed penalty notices was Sandwell Council, which secured 30 fines for fly-tipping in less than five months after launching a crackdown.

The 30th £400 fixed penalty was handed out in October after a man admitted dumping a black bag among rubbish off Whitehouse Drive in Smethwick.

WS furnishings



WENDY 3+1+1 IN FINEST ITALIAN LEATHER



Was £799
Now
£399

SPECIAL OFFER
COMFORT CARE 4FT 6" WITH
2 DRAWERS AND HEADBOARD



Was £449
Now
£300

KATHY 4FT 6" BED FRAME



Was £800
Now
£599.99

OXFORD DIVAN PLUS
2 DRAWERS AND HEADBOARD



FROM
£849.00

LIFT AND RISE RECLINER
CHAIRS IN LEATHER

ALSO IN FABRIC, VARIOUS COLOURS



WAS £1999.99
NOW
£1499.99

NEW SUITE
SPECIAL
OFFER

3+1+1 FULL RECLINER SUITE



NEW TO STORE THE DEVON
RANGE BEDROOM FURNITURE

New to store - Ortho chairs **SELECT AND COLLECT OR WE CAN DELIVER BEFORE CHRISTMAS**



Recliner chairs from £299 Wonderfully comfortable

SIT!
SNOOZE!
RELAX!

Riser Recliners*

Lift your feet and recline
you to relax.



SALE STARTS 27TH DECEMBER 10AM

Green Lane, Walsall WS2 8LE
FREEPHONE 0800 1975419

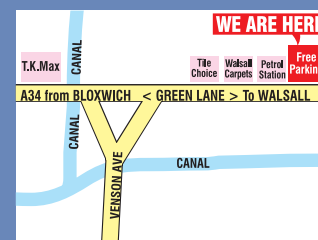
FREE
PARKING
AREA

Visit our new website: www.ws.furnishings.co.uk

Open Hours: Monday - Saturday 10.00am-5.00pm, Sunday 11 - 5pm

FREE PARKING ALL BUS ROUTES TO THIS STORE

Number of buses are: No. 5, 69, 70, 38A All above buses stop outside our store



Bed & Furniture
Clearance Centre

10% OFF with this voucher

SALE

MORE SAVINGS ON BEDS & FURNITURE IN STORE

Dining Room
Chairs from **£50**

4ft 6" Ethan Bed
Frame NRP ~~£429~~
Sale Price **£150**

Sofa's
from **£75**



Day Beds
from **£69**



Chelsea 3 Piece
Suite NRP ~~£1199~~
3 only left **£699**



Dining Sets
from **£99**



Bunk Beds
from **£99**



Recliner Chair
& Footstool
£99



Kids Bed Frame
from **£45**



Oak Bed
from **£99**



4ft 6" Divan Set with
free head board & 2
drawers **£299**



**STARTS
27th
DECEMBER
AT
10AM**

3ft Mya Bed Frame
NRP ~~£189~~
Sale Price Now **£79**



4ft 6" Lyon Bed
Frame NRP ~~£132~~
Now **£69**



50% off
All Rugs



Bed & Furniture
Clearance Centre

19-20 Bradford Street, Walsall WS1 1PB T: 01922 647 076
www.clearancecentre.uk.com

All offers correct at time of going to press; these items are typically: New, Ex-Display, End of Line, Cancelled orders & Quality seconds.
E&OE. Images for illustration purposes only.

Find us on
Facebook



CARPET ROLL SALES

Have a New
Carpet for
Christmas
Order Now

YOU WON'T
FIND A CARPET
CHEAPER!

CARPET YOUR ROOM

from
only

£49

LARGE CHOICE
OF SIZES

CRS are a Family run business with over 40 years experience. Our Reputation is built on providing the keenest prices and giving friendly customer service that you can truly rely on!

COME AND VISIT US TODAY

CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

Saturday 23rd December - 9am to 5pm
Sunday 24th December - CLOSED
Monday 25th December - CLOSED
Tuesday 26th December - 10am to 4pm
Wednesday 27th December - 10am to 4pm
Thursday 28th December - 10am to 4pm
Friday 29th December - 9am to 5.30pm

Saturday 30th December - 9am to 5.30pm
Sunday 31st December - 10am to 4pm
Monday 1st January (*New Year's Day*) - 10am to 4pm
Tuesday 2nd January - 9am to 5.30pm
Normal opening hours from this point forward

NEW HATHAWAY 80/20

2 rolls to clear

Was £26.99

NOW £9.95 PER SQ MTR

Abingdons Secret Affair

Love Story Collection Satin Finish

£21.99 PER SQ MTR

'RIO' luxurious Feel

Very deep pile Saxony - Lifetime Guarantee

NOW £13 PER SQ MTR

'SPECTRE' Twist

Fantastic Choice of Colours

£9 PER SQ MTR

Come
and see our
new rug
showroom



OUR GOLD SERVICE

We will send out an experienced estimator to your home with a complete range of samples. You can choose your carpet in the comfort of your own home. We will then send TWO fitters who will move furniture, remove your old carpets and fit your new carpet.

...The Complete Uplift & Removal Service - ask for full details

**MEET THE
TEAM**

**Derek
and Tina**



Day Street, Walsall WS2 8EJ Tel: 01922 621800 (NEAR WALSALL LEATHER MUSEUM)

Unit 4A Martindale, Hawks Green, Cannock, Staffs. WS11 7XL 01543 431321

2-3 The Parade, Cannock Rd, Wolverhampton Tel: 01902 733366



WALSALL STORE IS OPEN SUNDAYS 10-4PM web: www.crscannock.com

Man behind mountain of waste gets jail warning

THE man behind a mountain of rubble and timber that brought misery to people living nearby has been warned he faces jail.

Up to 13,000 tons of wood and construction waste was dumped at the illegal tip in Middlemore Lane, Aldridge that allegedly cost £200,000 to clear, a judge heard.

Steven Morgan, who is of previous good character and ran the site under the name of Aldridge Aggregates and Recycling, has admitted operating a regulated facility without an environmental permit between April 6 and August 29, 2015.

The 51-year-old discharged bankrupt from Whetstone Lane, Aldridge is being prosecuted by the Environmental Agency which claims the amount of waste dumped there soared from several hundred tons to almost 13,000 tons in just over a month, Wolverhampton Crown court was told.

Adjourned

But the defendant, who allegedly refused to act on advice from officials, argues that the true figure was no more than 3,900 tons of wood and construction waste.

Recorder Ben Mills maintained that photographs of the site might be said to 'show a large scale waste operation being conducted with flagrant disregard to the law.'

Mr Nicholas Ostrowski, defending, said Morgan became bankrupt last year but was discharged two months ago although a trustee in bankruptcy still had control over the defendant's finances. The lawyer added: "He has no income at the moment. His wife pays the mortgage and bills."

There is currently no specific ev-



The illegal Aldridge dump, which at one point was said to total up to 13,000 tons

idence as to how much the businessman earned from the illegal tip, the court heard, and sentencing was adjourned to allow the defence more time to prepare their case.

Recorder Mills granted the application and said: "This environmental offence is so serious it passes the custodial threshold and the defendant must be given a fair opportunity to present his case. He is facing the possibility of an immediate custodial sentence. The defence do not accept the £200,000 figure suggested by the

prosecution (for the clean up cost) but do not offer an alternative. Even if it was half that figure it would still come under the heading of significant cost."

He ordered Morgan to prepare a statement of assets and details of any material, medical or financial, on which he intends to rely by January 19. The case was adjourned to April next year. The defendant, who was granted unconditional bail, may also have to pay compensation to residents and businesses affected by his behaviour, the court was told.



WINTER MELTDOWN SALE

UP TO 75% OFF **£1,000,000 WORTH OF QUALITY FURNITURE DRASTICALLY REDUCED IN PRICE!**

EVERYTHING! YOU WILL NOT FIND BETTER VALUE FOR MONEY ANYWHERE IN THE COUNTRY!

PLUS UP TO 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT (0% APR REPRESENTATIVE SUBJECT TO STATUS. Excludes many items. See website for details.)

MADRID 3 SEATER AND 2 SEATER SOFAS WITH ATTRACTIVE SADDLE STITCH DESIGN WAS £1395 MELTDOWN PRICE £675 THE PAIR! SAVE £720	BOSS RECLINER CORNER SUITE IN RED, GREY & TAN WAS £1999 SAVE £1100 MELTDOWN PRICE £899 ALSO AVAILABLE AS 3 SEATER & 2 SEATER	EARLY BIRD BARGAINS PAIR OF ALL ITALIAN LEATHER 2 SEATER SOFAS (HARVEY) IN PILLAR BOX RED DISPLAY MODELS TO CLEAR! WAS £1895 SAVE £1000 MELTDOWN PRICE £895 THE PAIR !!	BEDS - DIVANS - MATTRESSES DIRECT FROM OUR FACTORY OUR LOW, LOW PRICES JUST GOT EVEN LOWER!! IMPERIAL DOUBLE PLATINUM FINISH VICTORIAN STYLE BEDFRAME COMPLETE WITH LUXURY COOL SPRING ORTHO MATTRESS IN BELGIAN DAMASK WAS £899 SAVE £500 MELTDOWN PRICE £399 KING SIZE JUST £50 EXTRA! SINGLE WAS £399 MELTDOWN £249 DOUBLE WAS £499 MELTDOWN £299
MEGAN 3 SEATER & 2 SEATER SOFAS IN BEIGE OR GREY FABRIC WAS £1199 SAVE £600 MELTDOWN PRICE £599 THE PAIR!	CALYPSO SOFA IN BROWN OR BLACK AMAZING VALUE !! WAS £339 HALF PRICE MELTDOWN PRICE £169.50	3 SEATER SOFA & ARMCHAIR (BAILEY) IN QUALITY CREAM ITALIAN LEATHER WAS £1699 SAVE £1000 MELTDOWN PRICE £699	OTTOMAN LIFT UP STORAGE BED FRAME IN EXPRESSO BROWN MATTRESS NOT INCLUDED KING WAS £599 MELTDOWN £299 EXTRA! SINGLE WAS £399 MELTDOWN £249
BLOOMSBURY VIBRANT ACCENT CHAIR - CHOICE OF COLOURS WAS £299 50% OFF MELTDOWN PRICE £149	CHOOSE FROM OUR UNRIVALLED STOCKS OF MOBILITY CHAIRS IN LEATHER & FABRIC. MANY MODELS TO CHOOSE FROM SAVING UP TO 50% EG ROBERTO LIFT & TILT IN LEATHER WAS £699 50% OFF MELTDOWN PRICE £349	MYERS 2 DRAWER SINGLE DIVAN IN GREY FABRIC COMPLETE WITH FREE STANDING BUTTON HEADBOARD & QUALITY LEXUS MATTRESS WAS £599 SAVE £350 ONE ONLY! MELTDOWN PRICE £249	CRUSHED VELVET DOUBLE DIVAN BASE WITH MEMORY MASTER MATTRESS & CRYSTAL BUTTONED HEADBOARD WAS £499 HALF PRICE MELTDOWN PRICE £249
		SOLID LIGHT OAK DOUBLE BEDFRAME (OAKRIDGE) & MEMORY FOAM MATTRESS WAS £359 SAVE £120 MELTDOWN PRICE £239	SILVER METAL BUNK BEDS (MAKES 2 SINGLES IF REQUIRED) WITH 2 QUALITY SPRING MATTRESSES WAS £399 HALF PRICE ONLY 20 SETS PER STORE MELTDOWN PRICE £199
		KENT SINGLE SILVER METAL BEDFRAME COMPLETE WITH MATTRESS WAS £189 SAVE £100 ONE ONLY! MELTDOWN PRICE £79	100'S OF METAL FASHION BEDS IN STORE - COME & SEE! HUNDREDS OF BEDFRAMES, DIVANS & MATTRESSES TO TAKE AWAY
		TALL SOLID OAK CHEVAL MIRROR WAS £189 SAVE £100 ONE ONLY! MELTDOWN PRICE £89	SINGLE MATT FROM £39 DOUBLE MATT FROM £59 KING MATT FROM £79

PLUS... UP TO 75% OFF OCCASIONAL ITEMS
Huge range of mirrors, bar stools, lamps, pictures, coffee tables etc.

BFC FURNITURE FACTORY OUTLET STORE
UNIT 9, CONEYGREE TRADING ESTATE, CONEYGREE ROAD, BURNT TREE, DUDLEY DY4 8XF

Telephone: 0121 557 6885
OPENING HOURS: MON-SAT 10AM-5.30PM SUNDAY 10AM-4PM

VISA, MASTERCARD, AMEX, DEBIT
PICTURES FOR GUIDANCE ONLY

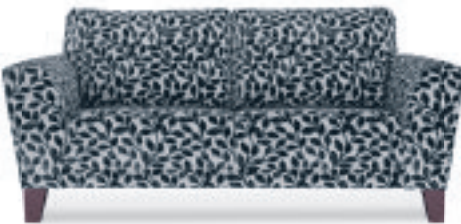
HARVEYS

It's bigger, brighter and better than ever

NEW MEGA STORE OPENS
22ND DECEMBER

Join us on opening day for an
EXTRA 10% OFF EVERYTHING*

Unit 1 Gallagher Retail Park, Axletree Way, Wednesbury WS10 9QY



Follow us on...



harveyshq

Shop online, in store or by phone
harveysfurniture.co.uk 03448 472 626



*Additional 10% off discount available on 22/12/17 only, discount applies to Harveys Wednesbury store only. This offer excludes care and protection plans, clearance items and delivery. Terms and conditions apply. Ask a member of staff or visit harveysfurniture.co.uk

42nd Street

New York City, 1933, and Peggy Sawyer, just off the bus from out-of-town hicksville, manages to miss the auditions for the dazzling new Broadway show but Peggy's impromptu dance routine is later spotted by the casting director, who decides to take a chance on her after all...

All the stops are pulled out as this classic tale of Broadway's Golden Age comes to London, directed and co-written by veteran Mark Bramble and featuring the showstoppers We're In The Money, Lullaby of Broadway, Shuffle Off To Buffalo, Dames, I Only Have Eyes For You and 42nd Street.

London Theatre Break

2 Days by Coach - Matinee

Departing Saturday 27 Jan

from Cannock, Walsall & Wolverhampton

Price Includes...

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ 1 night DBB at a selected hotel, Heathrow area
- ✓ 42nd Street theatre ticket (matinee performance)
- ✓ Free time in London



2 Days by Coach only
£149

★★★★★
"The mother of all show-biz musicals"
The Daily Telegraph

Also Available on this package and date



2 Days by Coach only
£149



2 Days by Coach only
£159



2 Days by Coach only
£139

Omega Holidays cannot be held responsible for the non-appearance of a particular actor/actress; no refunds will be given in this event. Whilst we always try to ensure that parties are seated together, very occasionally, it may be necessary for parties to be split. Couples are always seated together. Tours offered subject to availability. Errors and omissions excepted. Prices shown are per person, based on two people sharing a dbl/twin room. Single supplements apply.

For more information or to book, please call:

03300 130 051

or visit online at: **omegabreaks.com/RT**

Quote **OMRT**

033 numbers are free within inclusive minutes packages otherwise standard rates apply.



Fresh twist in scandal at owner of Poundland

THE deepening crisis at Poundland's parent company has claimed new victims, with the company chairman and his son both quitting.

It comes after Steinhoff, the South African retail giant that bought Willenhall-based Poundland for £610 million last year, admitted it would have to restate its financial figures for 2016 as 'they can no longer be relied upon'.

The scandal broke last week, when Steinhoff's chief executive, Markus Jooste, quit as the group revealed it was postponing releasing its 2017 figures because of 'accounting irregularities'.

Steinhoff's chairman, billionaire and biggest shareholder Christo Wiese, had stepped in as temporary executive chairman to run the business but now he has quit too. The conglomerate which owns Poundland, Bensons for Beds and Harveys in the UK, said in a statement that Mr Wiese had offered to resign to reinforce independent governance of the company.

His son Jacob has also resigned from the board - 'given the family relationship' - while director

By Simon Penfold

Heather Sonn now takes over as acting chairwoman.

The crisis has wiped billions of pounds of Steinhoff's value and has cast doubt over the future of a retail group with 130,000 employees at companies around the world.

And global banks are facing substantial losses on their loans to the company as it went on a takeover spree in recent years.

With a weeks of sealing its deal to buy Poundland last year it introduced its Pep&Co budget clothing brand to scores of stores and moved away from the company's traditional £1-for-everything format, introducing a broader range of products.

Prices remain 'robust' through lack of stock



The shortage of new houses being built is keeping prices high in the face of growing demand

THE law of supply and demand is keeping up house prices in the West Midlands, according to a new report.

Prices are still 'robust', largely because of the continued lack of stock, according to the latest residential market survey from RICS - the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

The lack of homes on the market, particularly new homes, is a key factor in keeping prices high in the face of growing demand. Despite efforts to increase the number of new homes being built, in 2016-17 it was up to only 184,000 - still behind the pre-recession peak of 200,000 homes a year, and way behind the 300,000 homes a year built in the early 1970s.

But the overall market is subdued, with enquiries from new buyers, instructions from people wanting to sell their homes and sales activity generally all falling in November.

Stephen Smith, from Fraser Wood in Walsall, said: "The pre-Christmas lull started early with sellers putting off placing properties on the market, unless the need to."

Christmas SALE

NOW ON - UP TO 70% OFF RRP - WHILE STOCKS LAST!

Quest
Triple Slow Cooker
Save £57
£29.99
Was £39.99 RRP £87.50

Bop It
Hasbro
Save £15
£9.99
Was £17.99 RRP £24.99

itek
Bluetooth Jukebox with Record Player & CD
Save £250
£149.99
Was £199.99 RRP £399.99

Calvin Klein
IN2U Man
• EDT
BIG 150ml BOTTLE
Save £28
£21.95
Was £28 RRP £50

BIG FRAGRANCE SALE NOW ON

DAVIDOFF
Cool Water Gift Set
• 40ml EDT
• 70ml Shower Gel
Save £14
£17.95
Was £25 RRP £32

Floral Rush
• EDP
VERA WANG
BIG 100ml BOTTLE
Save £52
£17.95
Was £25 RRP £70

Calvin Klein
Encounter
• EDT
BIG 100ml BOTTLE
Save £31
£17.95
Was £28 RRP £49

VERA WANG
Woman
• EDP
BIG 100ml BOTTLE
Save £64
£17.95
Was £30 RRP £82

CLINIQUE
Aromatics
• 25ml EDP
Save £16
£23.95
Was £29 RRP £40

paco rabanne
1 Million
• Aftershave splash
BIG 100ml BOTTLE
Save £5
£29.99
Was £35 RRP £35.50

Fly-tip fines total for region rises to £120k

FLY-TIPPERS in the West Midlands were fined a combined £120,000 in the past year – up from just £12,000 four years ago – according to new figures.

Local authorities across the region secured 295 fly-tipping prosecutions in 2016-17, up from just 67 in 2012-13.

Statistics released by the Government show fly-tipping fines in the Midlands totalled £123,318 in 2016-17, a huge rise from 2012-13 when the combined fine was £12,954.

The West Midlands has bucked the national trend, which has seen the number of successful prosecutions brought by councils against fly-tippers fall to a record low.

Doubled

There were more than one million fly-tipping incidents in England in 2016-17, equivalent to 114 every hour, according to figures published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

Nationally, the number of fixed penalty notices issued to fly-tippers has more than doubled, with 55,997 notices being handed out in 2016-17 across England.

In the West Midlands, 166 FPNs were dished out in 2012-13 – rising to 1,154 in the latest year. Among the Black Country authorities handing out the fixed penalty notices was Sandwell Council, which secured 30 fines for fly-tipping in less than five months after launching a crackdown.

The 30th £400 fixed penalty was handed out in October after a man admitted dumping a black bag among rubbish off Whitehouse Drive in Smethwick.



Piles of rubbish, including furniture, dumped off Whitehouse Drive, Smethwick

Councillor Elaine Costigan said: "A combination of rapid enforcement as well as putting cameras in hotspots seems to be making a real difference – fly-tipping reports have fallen sharply, they are down 13 per cent across Sandwell and in Smethwick we have seen a reduction of around 40 per cent."

"Fly-tipping is unsightly and anti-social. There really is no excuse for dumping rubbish on our streets and open spaces. It's also an unnecessary financial burden on council taxpayers."

The Local Government Association (LGA), which represents councils, has called for a 'more effective legal system'. Martin Tett, the LGA's environment spokesman, said: "Litter and fly-tipping is environmental vandalism. Clearing up fly-tipping is costing councils more than £57m a year."

YOUR CHOICE BATHROOMS

"Our company is owned and run by local tradesmen meaning the work is carried out properly and on time. We strive to keep our prices as low as possible in order to keep within the budgets of retired, disabled and working families which make up 95% of our customers."

YOUR ARMCHAIR GUIDE TO A NEW BATHROOM



DECISION

Phone us for a No Obligation Quote (Daytime / Evenings or Weekends)

QUOTATION

Design/Planning & Materials & Suite all chosen in your home & on the spot price given.

INSTALLATION

The Job is started & completed in around 5 days & left clean & tidy with all rubbish removed

INSPECTION

Everything is thoroughly checked with yourself at the end of the job to your satisfaction.

COMPLETION

Only when you are delighted with the finished job, do we accept your final balance.

RECOMMENDATION

We hope YOUR CHOICE will be your friends choice

DECEMBER & JANUARY FITTING DATES NOW BEING RESERVED

EXAMPLE FULL JOB FOR £3950.00

- 90x90 Quadrant Cubicle
- Tiled Floor with low level tray
- 15 SQM Wall Tiles
- Replacement Shower
- New Basin & WC

EXTRA DISCOUNT FOR OUR RETIRED & DISABLED CUSTOMERS

DISABLED SPECIAL

Are you having problems getting in & out of your bath? We will remove the Bath & Fit an easy access low level round, square or oblong cubicle & Tiled inside.

Supply a new replacement shower
A Folding Seat & Grab Rail
ALL FOR ONLY £2150.00

VAT FREE
IN
QUALIFYING
CASES

FOR FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE AND A WARM WELCOME PHONE US NOW TO BOOK YOUR FREE SURVEY

Showroom also at: 39 Lichfield Road, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton WV11 1TW

01902 861908

Unit 4, Charterfield Shopping Centre, Charterfield Drive, Kingswinford DY6 7SH



01384 287222

SHOWROOM OPEN

9am-5pm 6 Days a Week

www.yourchoice-bathrooms.co.uk



Welcome
NEW MEGA STORE OPENS
22ND DECEMBER

Join us on opening day for an

EXTRA 10% OFF EVERYTHING[†]

Unit 4b Gallagher Retail Park, Wednesbury WS10 9QY



FREE DELIVERY*



Follow us on...



bensonsforbeds

Shop online, in store or by phone
bensonsforbeds.co.uk 0808 144 6160



20 Amazon fire arrest

The Chronicle Thursday, December 21, 2017

A MAN has been arrested in connection with a large blaze at Amazon which caused severe damage and saw scores of staff being evacuated.

Staffordshire Police confirmed the 21-year-old suspect from Walsall has been bailed.

The flames ripped through two floors of the 700 sq ft fulfilment centre at Power Station Road, Rugeley. It broke out around 12.15pm on Saturday, November 4, and took several hours to get under control.

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service said it was only the sprinkler system which prevented the fire spreading.

A large amount of smoke logging was caused to the building.

A police spokeswoman stated: "A 21-year-old man from the Walsall area was arrested in connection with the fire, he has been released under investigation."

Staff boost refuge cash

A TEAM of staff from a Midlands law firm teamed up with Rotarians to help Black Country Women's Aid.

A cash donation was given and a variety of toys, gifts and toiletries were collected as Thursfields Solicitors joined forces with Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club, before Santa visited streets on his charity sleigh.

Black Country Women's Aid began 30 years ago with the opening of a small refuge for women and children living in fear to escape violence and sexual abuse. There are now six refuges which last year supported more than 8,000 people.

Passengers warned of Christmas train chaos

RAIL passengers have been warned to prepare for large-scale disruption over Christmas.

Major engineering work at Smethwick will see the line between Wolverhampton and Birmingham closed from December 27 to January 3 – meaning there will be no trains from Sandwell and Dudley station.

The work is set to cause misery for people who were due to travel on the trains over Christmas. Rail bosses have apologised to passengers but said the job is essential and will be carried out when many people are off work over the festive period.

Travellers will instead be able to get on replacement buses. Engineers will be replacing a major junction on the tracks at Smethwick as part of the latest phase of the Birmingham New Street resignalling project aimed at improving services across the Midlands.

Check

Track and signals dating as far back as the 1960s will be replaced.

The £250 million scheme will put the busy section of track connecting the two cities, used by thousands of people in the Black Country every day, out of action.

Passengers have been urged to check their journeys ahead of the work starting.

Richard Dugdale, Network Rail's senior scheme sponsor for the work, said: "Half the normal number of people travel by train at Christmas and New Year so we are seizing the opportunity to complete a huge amount of signalling and track upgrades."

"That way we cause the least amount of disruption to the fewest number of people. Train passengers should check before they travel on nationalrail.co.uk and allow extra time for their journeys."

Kaos as kickboxers rake in charity cash



Coach Dylan Fitzpatrick, centre, with members Anne Withington, Chris Howell, Eddie Gipton, Jason Sands and Revina Dhande

A GENEROUS fundraiser is boxing clever – with his charity nights netting cash for a Black Country hospital.

Kaos Kickboxing coach Dylan Fitzpatrick has organised a series of charity boxing matches to raise money for the Deanesly ward at New Cross Hospital. Five of the events have been held so far, with more planned next year.

Dylan, who is the head coach at Kaos Kickboxing, organised the fundraisers in memory of his late grandmother Mary Scott. She died of cancer at the age of 91 two years ago. He has since set out to raise as much as he can for the staff.

Now he is on the hunt for a new batch of boxing recruits ahead of the next event early next year. People are put through their paces for eight weeks before taking part in a matched boxing contest with another one of the trainees.

Dylan, aged 38, said: "I was very close with my nan who was in hospital at New Cross and was due to be admitted to the Deanesly ward. The charity boxing nights started after she passed away."

"All different types of people have got involved so far, including people who just wanted to do it for their bucket list or boxers from the past who last fought 15 years ago and wanted to give it another go. We're very careful so no-one gets hurt."

Kaos Kickboxing is based in Owen Road, Wolverhampton. Fight nights are staged at Jacks Bar, in Frederick Street. The next fundraiser is on March 24. Sign-up nights are on January 2 and 22. To register, or for tickets, visit kaoskickboxing.co.uk or call 07772 658708.

Expansion for special schools in the pipeline

PLANS to enlarge special schools across the borough are set to be considered.

Walsall Council's cabinet is considering plans to significantly enlarge five of its maintained special schools over the next 18 months, with additional moves set in place to expand special educational needs provision at a local Business and Enterprise College. In recent Ofsted ratings all six of the special schools have been classed as either 'Outstanding', or 'Good' by inspectors.

The first stage of the expansion programme includes Old Hall, Shepwell Short Stay and Jane Lane schools, with Castle Business and Enterprise College also changing its existing provision to better reflect current need.

Capacity at each site could be increased from September 1, 2018, with a second phase of proposed classroom increases at Oakwood and Mary Elliot schools from mid September 2019.

The expansion plans were formally consulted throughout November. Approval would mean that the current and anticipated demand for special school places will meet borough need and is in line with the national targets set by Department for Education (DfE).

The response to the demand for the increased places also supports the council's corporate priority to provide Walsall children with the best start in life, so they can learn well, fulfil their potential and later contribute to their communities.

Councillor Aftab Nawaz, children's services chief, said: "I'm delighted that these school expansion plans are being considered. It means that Walsall children with a variety of special needs will have the best access to the most appropriate school for them on their learning journey."

WM GARAGE DOORS

WINTER WARMERS



Garage Doors from **£240***
Inc. VAT

✓ FITTING SERVICE ✓ METAL, TIMBER, GRP, uPVC
✓ MADE TO MEASURE ✓ ALL MAJOR MANUFACTURERS AVAILABLE

Showroom Opening times:
Mon-Fri: 9.00am-5.00pm Sat: 10.00am-4.00pm
(all other times by appointment)

WALSALL GARDEN CENTRE Sutton Road, Walsall WS9 0QH



All styles and materials available:-
Roller, Up & Over, Sectional and Side hinged
Call for further information



We will **NOT** be beaten on price!

RISK FREE
0% DEPOSIT
ORDERING

ABS / uPVC DOORS

Made from a tough yet flexible material commonly used to make car bumpers, so when it's knocked, the door panel flexes then bounces back as good as new. Fully bonded steel stiffeners at the rear of all ABS doors reinforce the panel and help protect against forced entry.

If you are looking for a garage door that's going to withstand the knocks and bumps of family life, you need look no further than ABS.



- Impact and dent resistant ABS panels
- Easy clean finish simply wiped down with a soft cloth and warm water
- Matches PVCu windows and doors
- Low maintenance finish
- Strong lightweight construction weighing less than 2/3 of a traditional steel door
- UV fast low gloss brilliant white finish guaranteed for 10 years

From **£495**
Inc. VAT



From **£380**
Inc. VAT



From **£690**
Inc. VAT



From **£850**
Inc. VAT

Tel: **01922 611253** www.wmgaragedoors.co.uk
sales@wmgaragedoors.co.uk

FREE NO OBLIGATION ONSITE QUOTE

INC*Not in conjunction with any other offer. *Based on a 7 x 7ft Garage Door. *Fitting Charges apply.

Fake gun threats charge

A MAN has been charged on suspicion of threatening people with a fake gun including one victim while he was defrosting his car.

Joseph Hall, from Windsor Road, Cheslyn Hay, was arrested in connection with three related incidents in Walsall on Tuesday morning. The 31-year-old has been charged with robbery, two counts of possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence, shoplifting and driving without insurance or a licence.

He was due to appear at Walsall Magistrates' Court this morning. West Midlands Police confirmed an imitation firearm was recovered as part of the investigation.

The charges relate to an incident which took place in Central Close, Dudley Fields, Bloxwich around 5.45am.

The force was then alerted to a second incident in Sutton Coldfield at 7.15am. It culminated in a large armed officer presence descending on Northgate Aldridge around 9am shortly before the arrest was made.

New lease of life hopes for leisure centre

A DILAPIDATED leisure centre closed down in 2010 due to its status as the poorest performing site of its kind in Walsall could be given a new lease of life.

Willenhall Leisure Centre was closed down among a raft of council cuts which took place seven years ago, with bosses at the time saying that statistically, the Bath Street site had been the worst-performing throughout the borough in terms of visitors numbers. The centre was opened in 1938 and its redevelopment could see 10 full time and 30 part time jobs established.

In 2013, a planning application to extend the site and transform it into a banqueting suite was approved, however this never came to fruition.

Now another company has put forward a similar application which will see the run-down site transformed into a venue for conferences and banquets to take place.

The news has been welcomed by local councillor Carl Creaney, who represents the Willenhall South ward and said the site is currently a 'target' for vandals and poses an arson risk.

Pleased

He said: "We as a council approved plans which are very similar to this latest planning application back in 2013 but nothing has happened, it is a bit of a mystery because myself and other local councillors just didn't hear anything

"The period for work to start in relation to that application has now passed and I am pleased that we now have another application to look at it. This should have happened a long time ago but now hopefully we can see the old leisure centre transformed into a thriving site which could bring a bit of money to Willenhall. The site at the moment poses a risk of arson attacks, vandalism and anti-social behaviour."

The latest application has been put forward by Millgate Associates, who have since acquired the building from its previous owner Raj Kumar.

Parking fees at Chasewater

PARKING charges will be introduced at Chasewater next year while the move could be rolled out to other beauty spots.

The county council's economic growth chief Mark Winnington approved the move under delegated powers and the fees will be implemented at the site from January 1. It will cost £1 an hour or £3 a day.

Judge Johnathan Gosling told Hoey, of Talland Avenue, Tamworth, she had three months to pay up or serve three years in jail in default. She was found guilty by a jury of fraud charges and given a suspended sentence.

Staffordshire had previously gone back on the move after putting up signs last December telling visitors they would have to pay to park from the start of 2017.

Pay up, snorkelling benefit cheat told



Linda Hoey seen on her way to court

A MOTHER-OF-FOUR who went snorkelling in the tropics while illegally pocketing £81,000 in disability benefits has been told: "You must repay the lot."

Linda Hoey went to the Maldives and Egypt and holiday photos revealed the lie she had been living for 15 years while claiming to be barely able to walk. The racket saw her collect £65,244 of disability living allowances by exaggerating the effects of arthritis and other complaints.

This allowed her to receive an exemption pass under false pretences and rack up £16,588 worth of free travel on the M6 Toll Road commuting to PartsWorld in Orbital Way, Cannock.

at Stafford Crown Court Hoye, 38, was ordered to repay £81,812.05. She must also pay £1,000 costs. Mr Jason Pegg, prosecuting, told the hearing that Hoye had total assets of £185,000 comprising mainly of the family's house and a narrow boat, which she intended to sell.

The mother of four pictured snorkelling

Judge Johnathan Gosling told Hoey, of Talland Avenue, Tamworth, she had three months to pay up or serve three years in jail in default. She was found guilty by a jury of fraud charges and given a suspended sentence.

[illegible]



Your Christmas Rubbish and Recycling arrangements 2017/18

Changes to your grey and green bin collections

To help you cope with your extra rubbish over the Christmas period grey and green bins will be emptied weekly from Monday 18 December 2017 until Friday 12 January 2018 with the following exceptions:

Monday Collections

There will be no collection on Monday 25 December. Bins due to be collected on Monday 25 December will be emptied on Wednesday 27 December. There will be no collection on Monday 01 January 2018.

Tuesday Collections

There will be no collection on Tuesday 26 December.

Wednesday Collections

There will be no collection on Wednesday 27 December.

Additional waste

Because extra bin collections have been arranged we WILL NOT collect any additional bagged waste. Please take this to one of the two local tips (Household Waste Recycling Centres).

Collections in the New Year

From Monday 15 January 2018 grey and green bins will be emptied every other week. Please check your bin collection calendar or visit our website for your collection dates

Your local tips

Fryers Road and Merchants Way HWRC's will be closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day, and will close at 1pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Additional opening has been arranged at both sites during Christmas and New Year weeks.

Last vehicles are admitted to site 15 minutes before closing time.

Winter weather

If we can't carry out the planned collections due to winter weather conditions we will keep you updated by local radio, our website, Facebook and Twitter. We will also leave a recorded message on our Contact Centre number 01922 653344.

Should you require any further information:
Telephone: 01922 653344

Should you require further information:

Telephone: 01922 653344

Website: www.walsallbins.co.uk

Email cleanandgreen@walsall.gov.uk

[@Cleanandgreen](#) [f Walsall bins and things](#)

Household Waste Recycling Centre Opening Times

Day
Fryers Road
Merchants Way

Mon 18 Dec	✓	✓
Tue 19 Dec	✓	x
Wed 20 Dec	✓	x
Thu 21 Dec	x	✓
Fri 22 Dec	x	✓
Sat 23 Dec	✓	✓
Sun 24 Dec	E	E
Mon 25 Dec	x	x
Tue 26 Dec	x	x
Wed 27 Dec	✓	✓
Thu 28 Dec	✓	✓
Fri 29 Dec	✓	✓
Sat 30 Dec	✓	✓
Sun 31 Dec	E	E
Mon 01 Jan	x	x
Tue 02 Jan	✓	✓
Wed 03 Jan	✓	✓
Thu 04 Jan	✓	✓
Fri 05 Jan	✓	✓

✓ Open 9am - 5pm
X Closed
E Early Closing at 1pm

Youngsters spell it out after outstanding rating



Teacher Sue Griffiths and headteacher Margaret Turley with children from Ogley Hay Nursery School, Brownhills

A NURSERY has retained its outstanding rating following its first inspection from Ofsted in five years. Ogley Hay Nursery School in Brownhills was first given the top grading in 2012.

The authority returned for a short visit on November 7 and has now confirmed the high

standards have been maintained. In a glowing letter to headteacher Margaret Turley, Ofsted inspector Usha Devi said: "The leadership team has maintained the outstanding quality of education in the school since the last inspection."

"You are an enthusiastic leader who inspires

staff to help all children excel academically and emotionally. The focus that you, the deputy manager, staff and governors place on improving the life chances of children and their families is instrumental to the nursery's continued success."

WACC
Walsall Adult and Community College

HOLIDAY GREETINGS
FROM ALL OF US AT
WALSALL ADULT AND COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

ENROLLING FOR JAN 2018

Apply Online

www.wacc.ac.uk

Good Molly! Hair donated to charity



Molly May, aged 11, had her hair cut off at Luxe Hairdressing in Moat Lane, Great Wyrley

A SELFLESS young girl raised hundreds of pounds and donated 30 inches of hair to charity.

Molly May, aged 11, from Great Wyrley, heard about the Little Princess Trust, a charity that provides wigs for young cancer patients, a year ago. She has been growing her hair ever since in order to donate it to those who need it.

Her hair grew to 30 inches before she had it cut off to be made into a wig for cancer patients or those suffering conditions such as alopecia, where hair loss occurs because of damage to hair follicles.

She also raised £525 for the charity through sponsorship forms.

Her mother, Susan McMurray, 43, said: "I think she is outstanding. She is just incredible and because at the time she decided she wanted to do it she was only 10-years-old so I am very proud of her."

She did the deed at Luxe Hairdressing in Great Wyrley, Walsall last month.

Ofsted says academy is now on the right track

A FAILING school where Ofsted inspectors were pelted with food is making good progress, according to a new report by the schools watchdog.

Willenhall E-ACT Academy was placed into special measures earlier this year after a damning report. But a visit by Ofsted has found academy bosses have taken steps to improve.

By David Cosgrove

Interim inspections are conducted as part of standard procedure when a school or academy is placed in special measures.

Overall, Ofsted inspectors concluded the academy's leaders and managers are taking effective action towards the removal of special measures, with both the trust's and academy's action plans described as 'fit for purpose' by inspectors.

Headteacher Kirsty Jones said: "I am pleased Ofsted has recognised the significant improvements we have made at Willenhall E-ACT Academy in a relatively short period of time.

"Whilst there is much more work to be done, the positive changes which have

occurred following the inspection in March 2017 are testament to the efforts of both staff and students at the academy."

Walsall North Conservative MP Eddie Hughes, said: "I look forward to visiting there in the future and will support the school in any way I can."

The school, in Furzebank Way, which has more than 1,300 pupils, was ranked inadequate by Ofsted across the board in a damning report published in May. Inspectors highlighted a catalogue of issues in the report, including sub-standard teaching and poor behaviour from pupils.

LOWEST PRICES GUARANTEED

COMFORT BEDS

Established Family Business Over 20 years

SALE STARTS 27th DECEMBER 9AM



Black Bedstead 3/4
WAS £199 **NOW ONLY £99**
Kingsize WAS £249 **NOW ONLY £99**



Brush Nickel Bedstead
Double WAS £549 **NOW ONLY £329**
Kingsize WAS £599 **NOW ONLY £359**



Glitz Silver Sleigh Bedstead with diamantes
Double WAS £649 **NOW ONLY £349**
Kingsize WAS £699 **NOW ONLY £399**



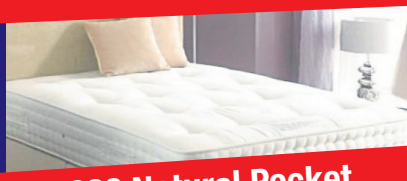
Wooden & Brown Faux Leather Bedstead
Double WAS £299 **NOW ONLY £129**



Silentnight 4 Drawer Bed
Double R.R.P. £779 **NOW ONLY £449**
Kingsize R.R.P. £889 **NOW ONLY £499**



Hypnos
Kingsize for the price of a double on all beds and mattresses
Double & King Mattresses **from £499**



3000 Natural Pocket 2 Drawer Bed
Double or 3/4 WAS £849 **NOW ONLY £599**
Kingsize WAS £949 **NOW ONLY £649**



Ottoman Bed
Including Pocket Sprung Various Colours
Double WAS £599 or 3/4 **NOW ONLY £449**
Kingsize WAS £649 **NOW ONLY £499**



Memory Foam Orthopedic 2 Drawer Bed
Various Colours Double or 3/4
WAS £449 **NOW ONLY £299**
Kingsize WAS £499 **NOW ONLY £349**



Highgrove Luxury Soft Pocket 2 Drawer Bed Double or 3/4
WAS £799 **NOW ONLY £499**
Kingsize WAS £899 **NOW ONLY £569**



Orthopedic 2 Drawer Bed
Double or 3/4
WAS £299 **NOW ONLY £199**
Kingsize WAS £349 **NOW ONLY £269**



Kingsize for the price of a double on all Mammoth beds and mattresses
Plus 4 free drawers on all Silentnight Beds

WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR CUSTOMERS A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR
FREE DELIVERY IN LOCAL AREA | DISPOSAL OF OLD BED | SET UP SERVICE AVAILABLE

HUGE REDUCTIONS ON ALL TOP BRANDS



Walsall Showroom

Jubilee House, Walsall Road, Walsall Wood, Walsall WS9 9AH (Next to Barons Court Hotel)

Open 7 days a week, Mon-Sat: 9.00am - 5.30pm, Sunday: 10.00am - 4.00pm

01543 529146



Sutton Coldfield Showroom

51 Birmingham Road, Sutton Coldfield B72 1QF (By the Empire Cinema)

Open 7 days a week, Mon - Sat: 9.30am - 5.30pm Sunday: 11.00am - 4.00pm

0121 355 5390

WWW.COMFORTBEDS.CO.UK • INFO@COMFORTBEDS.CO.UK



Compton Hospice, which has secured £1.5m for its revamp



Claire Marshall with Paul Baugh, Mark Jenkins, Barrie Malia and Cyril Barrett



The new hub will bring together the services

£1.5m means Goodyear for hospice

COMPTON Hospice has secured the full £1.5 million for a major extension after ex-Goodyear workers agreed to donate the sum.

Work is due to begin in the summer on a new facility which has been hailed as a parting gift from the tyre giant synonymous with Wolverhampton.

The Goodyear workers' fund, built up over more than 30 years from sick and distress pay, initially pledged £1 million towards the project but now has confirmed it will be able to give another £500,000.

Cyril Barrett, chairman of the group of Unite members, said the community administration hub would act as a 'living legacy' of the Goodyear workers after the city's plant closed for good in August.

The redevelopment – which has been approved by Wolverhampton Council planners – will see the main building on Compton Road West redesigned.

The main purpose of the hub will be to bring the charity's range of support services including inpatient care, care in the home, daycare facilities and psychosocial care, under one roof, creating a single point of access for healthcare professionals and families.

A link between the hall and the hospice accommodation will be created.

Mr Barrett, from the Goodyear workers 5/344 Transport and General Workers Sick and Distress Fund, said members were proud something positive would come from the closure of the landmark plant, which resulted in hundreds losing their jobs.

He said: "We held 20 meetings with mem-

bers and the one thing they made clear was supporting Compton Hospice was a priority.

"Planning permission has been granted and hopefully in the middle of next year we will see the start of the process of building the communication centre."

Legacy

He added: "It is so important to us. The hospice has provided care and support to families of many of our members. This is a project we wanted to do.

"On behalf of my colleagues, I am absolutely delighted and so proud.

"What we are doing is what we promised, creating a living legacy to good, honest, hard-working people who have been members of the fund since 1985."

Mr Barrett said the workers' group, which

has supported countless charities across the Black Country, had budgeted to be able to give £1.5 million but was only now in a position to confirm it could provide the full amount.

It means hospice bosses will not have to apply elsewhere for additional funding.

Compton Hospice chief executive Claire Marshall said: "It's so exciting. Patients' needs are getting more complex and we want to serve more patients than we ever have. It means we will have a really good, co-ordinated service.

"We co-ordinate care between GPs, hospitals and other care providers. Having this facility is essential going forward to help provide a seamless experience for patients."

Ms Marshall said hospice bosses had been overwhelmed by the support of the former

Goodyear workers. She said: "£1.5 million is a vast amount of money by anybody's measure and the fact it is coming from the community which has supported us for decades is amazing. It came as a surprise, certainly the scale of it.

When it started, to get £1 million we were just euphoric. Now it has been extended to £1.5 million – the whole cost of the project – is just incredible."

After securing planning permission for the extension, finding the extra money needed for the scheme means Compton has now passed the final hurdle. Work is expected to take up to nine months.

Fund secretary and former Goodyear worker Paul Bough said: "Everyone has got some sort of affinity with Compton Hospice, their family has been helped."

StarReaderTravel
Hand picked holidays with you in mind

Motown the Musical

If ever a musical genre lent itself to theatre, it was the mass harmonics and wall-of-sound dramatics of Motown. Motown the Musical is the story of Berry Gordy, a former Detroit car-worker living in an America riven by race riots, who scraped together a shoestring budget in 1959 to found a record label which became its own assembly-line of sensational hits. Featuring 40 classic songs including My Girl, Stop! In The Name of Love, Dancing in the Street, I Heard It Through The Grapevine and Ain't No Mountain High Enough, this production won't disappoint.

London Theatre Break

2 Days by Coach - Evening Show

Departing Saturday 17 Mar

from Cannock, Walsall & Wolverhampton

Price Includes...

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ 1 night B&B at a selected hotel, Heathrow area
- ✓ Motown the Musical theatre ticket (evening performance)
- ✓ Free time in London



★★★★★

"A lavish, slick, song-crammed show"

Dominic Cavendish, The Telegraph

The Lion King

The smash-hit story of Simba the lion and his Serengeti journey from runaway to ruler of the plains has been a sell-out success ever since it opened on Broadway in 1997 and at London's Lyceum Theatre in 1999.

A theatre adaptation of a Disney classic, with music by Elton John and Tim Rice, a musical score by Hans Zimmer, arrangements by Lebo M and a plot loosely based on Hamlet, this multiple Tony and Olivier award-winning show has become the top-earning title in box office history, surpassing Lloyd Webber's Phantom of the Opera.

London Theatre Break

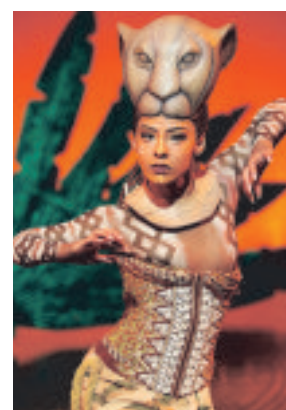
2 Days by Coach - Evening Show

Departing Saturday 17 Mar

from Cannock, Walsall & Wolverhampton

Price Includes...

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ 1 night B&B at a selected hotel, Heathrow area
- ✓ The Lion King theatre ticket (evening performance)
- ✓ Free time in London



★★★★★

"An outstanding creative and emotional musical"

Dom O'Hanlon, londontheatre.co.uk

Also Available

on this package and date



2 Days by Coach only
£139



2 Days by Coach only
£139



2 Days by Coach only
£139



2 Days by Coach only
£149

Call or visit us online for even more top London shows and available dates

For more information or to book, please call:

03300 130 051 Quote OMRT

033 numbers are free within inclusive minutes packages otherwise standard rates apply.

or visit us online at

omegabreaks.com/RT



Omega Holidays cannot be held responsible for the non-appearance of a particular actor/actress; no refunds will be given in this event. Whilst we always try to ensure that parties are seated together, very occasionally, it may be necessary for parties to be split. Couples are always seated together. Tours offered subject to availability. Errors and omissions excepted. Prices shown are per person, based on two people sharing a dbl/twin room. Single supplements apply.

Carnage on roads as city smash kills three

SEVEN people were killed and four seriously injured in a weekend of devastation on the region's roads.

Six people died in a horrific pile-up in Birmingham in what has been described as one of the worst crashes the region has witnessed in recent years.

Meanwhile police are also investigating a possible hit-and-run after a man was found dead in the road in Stourbridge. Three others were left seriously hurt after two cars smashed into a wall in Oldbury.

In the Birmingham city centre smash, three men were killed when they were thrown out of their car while a black cab driver and his two passengers died after the vehicle was left on its side. At the time of going to press, a fourth man travelling in the car remained in a critical condition.

The ambulance service said it was astonishing that a man and woman in another car also involved in the collision had minor injuries despite 'extensive damage' to their vehicle.

Three other cars collided as they tried to avoid the scene at the entrance to the underpass on Lee Bank Middleway, near Edgbaston, at around 1.10am on Sunday. At a press conference Supt Sean Phillips said: "We do know the roads were gripped at 5pm the day before and further investigations are still ongoing."

Michelle Brotherton, strategic commander for West Midlands ambulance service added: "It was described as a harrowing scene and all of our paramedics were debriefed and counselling will be available to them."

West Midlands Fire Service Area Commander Jason Campbell said: "All of the emergency services worked



The scene of devastation after two cars and a black cab collided in Birmingham



The crash scene in Birchfields Lane, Oldbury Picture: @WestMidsFire

together and co-ordinated their response in extremely challenging circumstances."

Meanwhile, police are also trying to piece together the events leading to the death of a man near Stourbridge town centre, who is believed to have been hit by a vehicle.

The man was found dead on Amblecote High Street, near Stourbridge Football Club, at around 5.30am on Saturday and the main route into

Stourbridge was closed for much of the day. Police said it was believed his injuries 'may have come about as a result of a collision in the road'.

And three men were also badly hurt in a crash on Birchfield Lane, Oldbury, on Saturday morning. Two cars were involved in the smash which resulted in both hurtling into a wall. One of the cars was left with its front end caved in following the impact. The road was closed until around noon.

MASSIVE SALE

STARTS BOXING DAY 26TH OF DECEMBER

Up To
70%
off High St
Prices

Custom Handmade Sofas
"made to measure"

Sofa
FACTORY OUTLET

6 steps to
buy your
handmade
made to
measure
sofa



Step 1
Bring your sizes
to our showroom



Step 2
Select from 50 designs
all available as corner
sofas and bed sofas



Step 3
Choose from over
2000 fabrics



Step 4
Leave only a 10%
deposit on your sofa



Step 5
Pay the remaining
balance on delivery



Step 6
Save hundreds of pounds
when buying direct
from the manufactures

5.0
★★★★★
Reviews

Hear our radio advert
on Signal 107.7FM
and Smooth Radio
105.7FM



Buy British for Superior Quality



20 Years of Quality Manufacturing

Thomas Street, Wolverhampton
West Midlands WV2 4JS
Open: 10.30 - 5.30pm Monday - Saturday
Sun and Bank Holiday 11.00 - 4.00pm

OPEN
SUNDAY

01902 425 225



COLLECT
FURNITURE
SAME DAY!

UP TO
**70%
OFF***

HURRY LIMITED STOCK ON OAK
PINE & PAINTED FURNITURE

*on returned goods



**WAREHOUSE
CLEARANCE**
FURNITURE

FURNITURE
OUTLET
NOW OPEN!



NEW STOCK ARRIVING DAILY!

MASSIVE RANGE OF QUALITY SECONDS FURNITURE AT OUTLET PRICES

Unit 4 Wednesbury Trading Estate WS10 7JN | Opening times - Mon - Fri: 12-8pm | Sat: 9-6pm | Sun: 10-4pm

Delivery: £10 local, outside 5 miles is £20 & £45 outside 40 miles

MORE GP APPOINTMENTS ARE AVAILABLE ACROSS WALSALL THIS WINTER



Walsall

Clinical Commissioning Group

Walsall residents will be able to benefit from extra GP appointments from Saturday, December 23, 2017 until April 2018 at three Hubs based at Darlaston Health Centre in Darlaston, Pinfold Health Centre in Bloxwich and Broadway Medical Practice.

When can I get an out-of-hours appointment?

Extra GP access appointments will be available between:

- 6.30pm – 9pm weekdays
- 10am – 3pm weekends
- 11am – 1pm bank holidays (including Christmas Day)

People will only be seen if they have booked an appointment.

How can I book one of these appointments?

A dedicated number has been set up and appointments can be booked by calling **01922 501999** during the following times:

- 8am – 9pm weekdays
- 10am – 3pm weekends
- 11am – 1pm bank holidays

NHS 111 will also be able to book an appointment for you if they feel you need to see a GP.

Do I need to be registered at one of the three surgeries where the Hubs are based to use the service?

No, you can be registered with any GP in Walsall to access the extra appointments.

Please note you will need to travel to one of the three hubs (listed above)

What if I'm not registered with a Walsall GP?

If you are not a registered patient, you will not be able to access these out-of-hours appointments.

More information about other health services can be found on Walsall CCG's website: www.walsallccg.nhs.uk.

When should use the Hubs?

The extra GP appointments are for patients who have a pressing illness or injury and are unable to get an appointment with their GP during normal opening hours. They are not walk-in centres and both of Walsall's urgent care centres and its A&E department will still be open for serious or life threatening emergencies.

That's Entertainment

Theatre has planned a Grand 2018



They got rhythm – Tom Chambers and Charlotte Wakefield in the George and Ira Gershwin musical Crazy For You



Dancing Queens and Super Troupers will be heading to Wolverhampton Grand for the big ABBA hits in Mamma Mia!



Natural Woman – Brontë Barbé plays singer-songwriter Carole King in the acclaimed show about her life, Beautiful



In two minds – gothic horror as Phil Daniels plays Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

PANTO season is in full swing but Wolverhampton Grand Theatre has already planned a bumper 2018 of top shows, including a new thriller, fresh adaptations of classics and the return of some old favourites.

Jack And The Beanstalk continues the family fun until January 14. Then the Grand gets the new year off to a dramatic start with the premiere of Ruth Rendell thriller Gallowglass (written as Barbara Vine) a story about a child's kidnapping and obsession. It's at the Wolverhampton theatre from January 18 to 20. The National Theatre's production of Henrik

Ibsen's Hedda Gabler, given a modern makeover by award-winning playwright Patrick Marber, visits January 23-27. The late 19th century masterpiece tells of the original desperate housewife, the conflicted Hedda, a woman caught in a loveless marriage. It is a powerful role for Lizzy Watts, who had a part in TV's The Durrells as Larry's girlfriend Nancy.

Spine-tingling ghost story The Turn Of The Screw, adapted from Henry James' novel by Tim Luscombe, is on from April 10 to 14, then another classic tale of terror stars Quadrophonia actor Phil Daniels as Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, May 1 to 5.

Grand musical highlights include blockbuster ABBA musical Mamma Mia! resident for three weeks, from February 6 to 24. Fans of can say Good Morning Baltimore again when Hairspray returns (February 26-March 3), and Willy Russell's Blood Brothers makes a comeback April 16-21.

A top-notch cast, spectacular staging and great Gershwin tunes combine to make Crazy For You, with Tom 'Strictly' Chambers, Claire Sweeney and Charlotte Wakefield, one of the most eagerly-awaited shows of the year, on from May 8 to 12.

Joe Pasquale steps into the shoes of

Michael Crawford as the accident-prone Frank Spencer in a new stage version of Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em, based on the classic 70s TV sit-com.

June is musical month with Beautiful the acclaimed Carole King Musical, with Brontë Barbé as the US hitmaker, coming to the Grand (12-16) as part of its first UK tour after West End success.

Then Hayley Tamaddon (so good in the touring version of Chicago) stars in the 1920s-set flapper musical Thoroughly Modern Millie (26-30).

The Jersey Boys are working their way back

to Wolverhampton to bring the music of The Four Seasons from August 28 to September 8. The recent West End favourite Kinky Boots struts its stuff at the Grand from October 16 to 27.

And, by the way, is you are eager for further panto magic next year – the Grand has already announced that next festive season's panto is Sleeping Beauty, and tickets are available now.

For further details about these shows and many more, including one-nighters and amateur productions, see grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429212.

**Elegance
Carpets &
Flooring**

**GRAND OPENING
SALE**

OPENING HOURS:
MON - SAT: 9AM - 6PM
SUN: 11AM - 4PM

01922 279 050

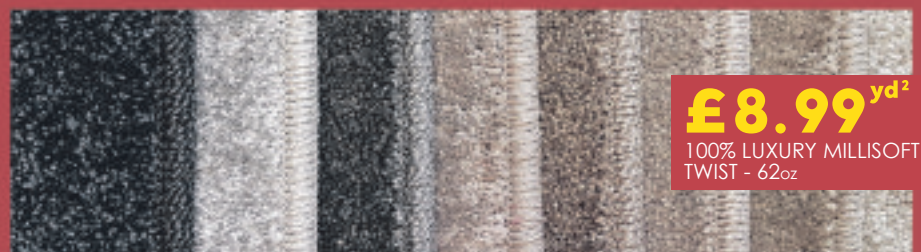
153 BRIDGEMAN STREET, WALSALL, WS2 9PG

**HUGE SELECTION OF LAMINATE FLOORING IN STOCK
WE WILL NOT BE BEATEN ON PRICE!!**



£5.99^{yd²}
Free Fitting

**ALL CARPETS & LAMINATES FITTED
BY OUR EXPERIENCED FITTERS**



£8.99^{yd²}
100% LUXURY MILLISOFT
TWIST - 62oz

**ALL CARPETS & LAMINATES FITTED
BY OUR EXPERIENCED FITTERS**



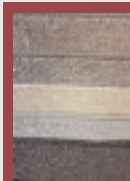
**HARD
WEARING
LOOP**

£4.99^{yd²}
Free Fitting



**BLEACH
CLEANABLE
TWIST**

£4.99^{yd²}
Free Fitting



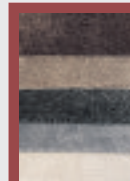
**ACTION BACK
BLEACH
CLEANABLE
TWIST**

£7.99^{yd²}
Free Fitting



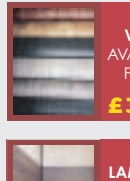
**HEAVY
DOMESTIC USE
BLEACH
CLEANABLE
TWIST**

£8.99^{yd²}
Free Fitting



**SUPER HEAVY
SAXONY
90oz
BLEACH
CLEANABLE**

£9.99^{yd²}



**VINYL
AVAILABLE
FROM**

£3.99^{yd²}



**FUNKY
STYLE**

£4.99^{yd²}
Free Fitting



**BLEACH
CLEANABLE
BERBERS**

£4.99^{yd²}
Free Fitting



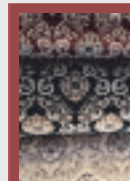
**CORMAR
ELITE
100%
EXCELLON
FIBRE**

£8.99^{yd²}



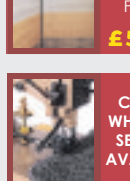
**HEAVY
LUXURIOUS
TWIST
BLEACH
CLEANABLE**

£10.99^{yd²}



**SUPER
PALACE
CARVING
NON
FLAMMABLE**

£12.99^{yd²}



**CARPET
WHIPPING
SERVICE
AVAILABLE**

www.expressandstarshop.co.uk

PLEASE SEND ME	CODE(S)	SIZE	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
				POSTAGE	£4.95
				TOTAL	

Christmas TV

McIntyre magic



Paul's love of dogs



Wild about bears



Your essential 8-page festive programme guide

Wishing all customers a Merry Christmas

Select Windows Home Improvement

Walsall Road, Walsall
WS9 9AH
01543 370666

Walsall Worktops

Unit 4,
Portland Street,
Walsall WS2 8BE
01922 641377

Shortheath Tyres

1 Arrow Industrial Estate,
Straight Road,
Willenhall
WV12 5AE
01922 475563

Stan Reynolds Garage Ltd

Mill Street,
Walsall WS2 8AN
01922 623545

Classic Interiors & Fireplaces

Internet prices on the high street!
Sofas - Beds - Mattresses - Fireplaces
71 Park Road, Bloxwich
WS3 3SW
01922 473880

Borsch Gas & Electrical Superstore

Unit 17-19 Victorian
Arcade, Walsall WS1 1RE
01922 279927

Click Flooring

High Street,
Bloxwich WS3 3JN
01922 495525

Christmas Eve

BBC 1



Michael McIntyre's Big Christmas Show, on at 8.30pm

6.00 Breakfast 7.25 Match of the Day (R) 9.05 FILM: Planes (2013) ★★ 10.30 FILM: The Santa Clause (1994) ★★★ 12.00 Life in the Snow Gordon Buchanan meets animals that live in snowy conditions. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.15 Songs of Praise: The Big Sing Katherine Jenkins and JB Gill present a carol concert from the Royal Albert Hall. 1.45 Shaun the Sheep: The Farmer's Llamas Shaun causes mayhem at a country fair. (R) 2.15 Hammy's Boomerang Adventure Over the Hedge short spin-off. (R) 2.20 FILM: Monsters University (2013) Animated comedy prequel, with the voices of John Goodman and Billy Crystal. ★★★

BBC 2



The annual service from King's College, Carols from King's, 5.45pm

6.15 Nature's Weirdest Events (R) 7.00 Island Parish Shetland (R) 7.30 FILM: The Prince and Me (2004) Romantic comedy, starring Julia Stiles and Luke Mably. ★★ 9.15 The Big Family Cooking Showdown (R) 10.15 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites Matt Tebbutt presents highlights of the series. 11.45 Mary Berry's Absolute Christmas Favourites (R) 12.20 The Hairy Bikers Home for Christmas Dave Myers and Si King create a series of festive recipes. 1.20 Alex Polizzi's Perfect Christmas The hotelier presents a guide to entertaining at home over the festive period. (R) 2.20 Cheetahs - Growing Up Fast Two years in the lives of a cheetah mother and her cubs. (R)

ITV



Bradley Walsh hosts, A Christmas Chase: Celebrity Special, 5.50pm

6.00 CITV: Sooty. (R) 6.10 Bottom Knockout Street (R) 6.20 Bottom Knockout Street (R) 6.35 Dino Dana (R) 6.45 Super 4 (R) 7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story (R) 7.05 Om Nom Stories 7.10 Nerds & Monsters (R) 7.20 Nerds & Monsters (R) 7.30 The Tom and Jerry Show (R) 7.45 Mr Bean: The Animated Series (R) 8.00 Mr Bean: The Animated Series (R) 8.10 Horrid Henry (R) 8.25 Make It Pop (R) 8.55 Scrambled! Christmas Stocking (R) 9.25 Save Money: Good Food (R) 9.55 FILM: Jack Frost (1998) ★ 11.50 Catchphrase Christmas Special (R) 12.45 ITV News and Weather; Weather. 12.55 FILM: Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (2002) ★★★

Ch4



Child Genius vs Celebrities Christmas Special, on at 8.00pm

7.00 FILM: The Rugrats in Paris: The Movie (2000) Animated adventure, with the voice of Christine Cavanaugh. ★★★ 8.15 The Big Bang Theory (R) 8.40 The Big Bang Theory (R) 9.05 Jamie's Quick & Easy Food (R) 9.40 Christmas Brunch With guests Anton Du Beke, Danny Mac and Tom Fletcher. 12.40 Paul Hollywood: A Baker's Life Paul shares his favourite Mediterranean recipes on a trip to Cyprus. Last in the series. (R) 1.10 Jamie's Italian Christmas Jamie Oliver cooks a festive meal with an Italian twist. (R) 2.10 The Simpsons A corporation buys Springfield Elementary School. (R) 2.40 The Simpsons An adult Bart and Lisa return home for Christmas with their parents. (R)

Ch5



Last in the series, The Yorkshire Vet at Christmas, on at 8.00pm

6.00 Milkshake! 9.20 FILM: Gone with the Wind (1939) A plantation heiress has a tumultuous relationship with a roguish Southern gentleman during the American Civil War. Epic romantic drama, starring Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable. ★★★ 1.35 FILM: Oklahoma! (1955) A farm girl is torn between two suitors, a charming cowboy and a grim, brooding farmhand. Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical Western, starring Gordon MacRae and Shirley Jones. ★★★

Early View

3.55 Doodlebugs
4.10 Home (2015) ★★
5.35 BBC News
5.50 Midlands Today; Weather

6.00 Countryfile
7.00 Mary, Mel and Sue's Big Christmas Thank You Mary Berry, Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins prepare a festive surprise for volunteers at a community centre that has been a focal point for a struggling South Wales town.

8.00 EastEnders Lauren and Abi make their feelings clear to Max, Karen confronts her children about the stolen phones and Mick tells Phil he wants nothing more to do with the job.

8.30 Michael McIntyre's Big Christmas Show The comedy star concludes his entertainment showcase with a festive special, featuring performances by soul singer Seal and comedian Bill Bailey.

9.35 Not Going Out Christmas Special Lee buys the perfect Christmas present for his children, but the kids' grandparents have the same idea, leaving him on a race against time to find an alternative.

10.15 BBC News; Weather.
10.30 The Vicar of Dibley The villagers celebrate Christmas, and vicar Geraldine learns there is a heavy price to be paid for festive kindness when she agrees to attend three slap-up lunches. (R)

11.15 The Two Ronnies Sketchbook (R)

11.45 Midnight Mass from Leeds Cathedral The traditional Christmas Eve service from St Anne's Roman Catholic Cathedral. Featuring the Leeds Cathedral Choir and Leeds Trinity Cathedral Boys' and Girls' Choirs.

1.00 FILM: Great Expectations (2012) ★★★

3.20 Guys and Dolls (1955) Musical, starring Frank Sinatra and Marlon Brando. ★★

5.45 Carols from King's The annual service from King's College, Cambridge.

7.00 Dad's Army Mainwaring's men face the might of a rival platoon in a battle to prove their worth. Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier play the superannuated soldiers. (R)

8.00 Christmas University Challenge 2017 New series. Jeremy Paxman presents the first round, featuring famous alumni from Durham University and Keble College, Oxford, competing for a place in the semi-finals.

8.30 Winter's Weirdest Events Chris Packham explores unusual and unexplained natural events that occur around the world during winter, from tornadoes made of snow to penguins attempting death-defying feats.

9.30 The Great Gatsby (2013) Premiere. A naive writer befriends a decadent millionaire and slowly uncovers the dark underside of his lavish lifestyle. Period drama, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Tobey Maguire. ★★★

11.55 Christmas TOTP2 Special Mark Radcliffe presents festive performances from the Top of the Pops archive, including classics by Slade, Wham!, Wizzard, East 17, Mud, the Jackson 5 and Johnny Mathis. (R)

1.25 FILM: Whitney: Can I Be Me (2017) The life story of Whitney Houston, who died in 2012 aged 48. ★★★ 3.05 Sign Zone: Holby City Morven is torn between her past and her future. Last in the series. (R) 4.05 This Is BBC Two Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC Two.

Prime Time

Late View

4.00 Cannonball Christmas Special Festive edition of the water-based obstacle course challenge, hosted by Andrew Flintoff.

5.00 You've Been Framed! Unwrapped Harry Hill narrates festive-themed clips. (R)

5.30 ITV News Central; Weather.

5.35 ITV News and Weather A Christmas Chase: Celebrity Special With Patti Clare, Matt Richardson, Kirsty Wark and Jimmy Osmond.

6.40 All Star Musicals Andrew Flintoff and Michael Crawford present a show in which seven famous faces each perform a song from a famous musical in front of a packed house at the London Palladium.

8.30 Maigret in Montmartre The detective investigates the seemingly random murders of a countess and a showgirl - and discovers an unexpected connection between the two victims' past experiences.

10.25 ITV News and Weather; Weather.

10.45 A Night for the Emergency Services Members of the emergency services team show off their performance skills, teaming up with the likes of Diversity, Leona Lewis, Michael Ball and Alfie Boe, and Tokio Myers. (R)

11.45 Christmas Carols on ITV Alfie Boe introduces a traditional Christmas Eve carol service, featuring Nadine Coyle, Alexander O'Neal, Howard Hewett, Alexis French, Ruthie Henshall and Natasha Barnes.

12.45 FILM: Casino Royale (1967) Spoof James Bond adventure, starring David Niven. ★ 3.00 ITV Nightvision 5.00 The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) 5.25 Make It Pop (R) 5.45 Mr Bean: The Animated Series (R)

3.05 The Simpsons (R)
3.35 The Borrowers (1997) Children's fantasy, starring John Goodman. ★★

5.20 The Snowman Animated adventure, based on Raymond Briggs' festive tale. (R)

5.55 The Snowman and the Snowdog (R)

6.20 Channel 4 News
6.30 The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992) Puppet comedy, starring Michael Caine. ★★

8.00 Child Genius vs Celebrities Christmas Special Richard Osman hosts a Christmas special in which past competitors return to take on a team of celebrities comprising Rob Delaney, Cathy Newman, Dom Joly and Janet Street-Porter.

9.00 Gogglebox 2017 Highlights from the most recent series, featuring the armchair critics' reactions to The Crystal Maze, the Weakest Link Celebrity Special, and Mary Berry's Country House Secrets.

11.05 The Inbetweeners The friends decide to play truant from sixth form and buy alcohol for an all-day drinking session, which is interrupted when Neil's father comes home early. (R)

11.35 The Inbetweeners The gang goes on the infamous sociology and geography field trip to Swanage, and Will takes a shine to new girl Lauren - but she is only interested in Simon. (R)

12.10 The Inbetweeners (R) 12.40 The Inbetweeners (R) 1.05 The Inbetweeners (R) 1.35 Man Down Christmas Special (R) 2.00 The Last Leg Christmas Special (R) 2.55 The Crystal Maze: Celebrity Special (R) 3.50 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R) 4.40 Location, Location, Location (R) 5.35 Four in a Bed (R)

4.15 Scrooge - A Christmas Carol (1951) (b/w) ★★

6.00 Agatha Christie's Crooked House (R)

7.00 5 News Update The latest headlines, sport and weather.

7.05 Agatha Christie's Crooked House Adaptation of the mystery novel, starring Max Irons and Terence Stamp. A man returning to London from Cairo investigates the poisoning of his fiancée's grandfather. (R)

8.00 The Yorkshire Vet at Christmas Peter Wright is called to an emergency at John Swales' farm, where one of his prize-winning Limousins is struggling to give birth. Last in the series.

9.00 André Rieu: My Life in Music Profile of the violinist, examining his upbringing in the Netherlands, early musical influences, and the bold moves that have made him one of classical music's biggest stars.

10.20 Andre Rieu: Christmas in London A festive concert by the Dutch violinist and the Johann Strauss Orchestra, featuring carols as well as songs including Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah and the Concierto de Aranjuez. (R)

11.30 An Audience with Donny & Marie The Osmond siblings entertain a celebrity audience in a programme based on their Las Vegas stage show, featuring old favourites and songs from their 2009 Donny & Marie album. (R)

12.35 Lip Sync Battle UK: Rufus Hound v Jorgie Porter (R) 1.00 SuperCasino 3.05 Love/Hate (R) 4.00 My Mum's Hotter Than Me! (R) 4.50 House Doctor (R) 5.15 Access 5.20 Wildlife SOS (R) 5.45 Chinese Food in Minutes (R)

Christmas Day

BBC 1



Jenny Agutter stars, Call the Midwife, on at 7.40pm

6.00 Breakfast News, entertainment and weather reports. 9.00 CBeebies' The Snow Queen Stage musical adaptation of the tale by Hans Christian Andersen. 9.45 Go Jetties 10.00 Christmas Morning from All Saints Fulham A live service led by the Rev Penny Seabrook. 11.00 The Madagascar Penguins in a Christmas Caper (R) 11.10 Snow Chick: A Penguin's Tale Following the first months in the life of an emperor penguin. (R) 12.10 BBC News; Weather. (R) 2.20 Top of the Pops Christmas Special With performances by Ed Sheeran, Dua Lipa, Clean Bandit, Rita Ora and the Script. 1.20 FILM: Toy Story 3 (2010) Animated adventure, with the voices of Tom Hanks and Tim Allen. ★★

BBC 2



David Mitchell stars in the comedy, Upstart Crow, on at 8.25pm

6.10 The Hairy Bikers Home for Christmas With the Rev Kate Bottley and Jon Culshaw. (R) 7.10 Island Parish Shetland (R) 7.40 FILM: Bee Movie (2007) Animated comedy, with the voice of Jerry Seinfeld. ★★ 9.00 The Big Family Cooking Showdown Families from Wiltshire and Birmingham compete. (R) 10.00 Harry Potter: A History of Magic (R) 11.00 Carols from King's The annual service from King's College, Cambridge. (R) 12.15 FILM: The Importance of Being Earnest (2002) Oscar Wilde comedy, starring Rupert Everett and Colin Firth. ★★ 1.40 BBC Proms 2017: Oklahoma! Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical Oklahoma! ★★

ITV



Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs at Christmas, on at 7.00pm

6.00 CITV: Sooty. (R) 6.10 Oddbods (R) 6.15 Om Nom Stories (R) 6.20 Signed Stories: Share a Story (R) 6.25 Almost Naked Animals (R) 6.35 Horrid Henry (R) 6.50 Horrid Henry (R) 7.05 Horrid Henry (R) 7.20 Horrid Henry (R) 7.30 Scrambled!: Scrambled! Christmas Special 7.35 Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show (R) 7.50 Scrambled!: The Bagel and Becky Show (R) 8.10 Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! (R) 8.30 Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Do! (R) 9.05 Scrambled!: Wishart (R) 9.25 FILM: National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989) ★★ 11.10 FILM: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) ★★ 12.50 FILM: Santa Claus: The Movie (1985) ★★

CH4



The restaurant hosts a festive party, First Dates at Christmas, 9.00pm

6.00 FILM: Rugrats Go Wild (2003) ★★ 7.20 The Bear (R) 7.45 Prep & Landing: Naughty vs Nice (R) 8.10 Prep & Landing (R) 8.40 Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas (R) 9.05 The Simpsons (R) 9.35 The Simpsons (R) 10.05 The Simpsons (R) 10.35 The Simpsons (R) 11.05 FILM: Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) ★★ 12.45 The Snowman Animated adventure, based on Raymond Briggs' festive tale. (R) 1.20 The Snowman and the Snowdog Animated sequel to classic festive tale The Snowman. (R) 1.55 Father Christmas (R) 2.25 Channel 4 News 2.30 The Alternative Christmas Message 2.35 FILM: Scrooged (1988) Christmas comedy, starring Bill Murray. ★★

CH5



Britain's Best Loved Double Acts: Christmas Special, on at 10.55pm

6.00 Milkshake! 8.55 FILM: Scrooge (1970) A miserly man is taught the error of his ways by a host of spectral visitors. Musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, starring Albert Finney and Alec Guinness. ★★ 11.05 FILM: Seven Brides for Seven Brothers (1954) A cowboy decides to get married, prompting his six hellraising brothers to kidnap brides for themselves. Stanley Donen's musical Western, starring Howard Keel and Jane Powell. ★★ 1.05 FILM: Singin' in the Rain (1952) A silent-movie star tries to win the heart of an aspiring actress as the dawn of sound changes the film business for ever. Musical comedy, starring Gene Kelly and Debbie Reynolds. ★★

Early View

3.00 The Queen's Christmas Broadcast
3.10 Cinderella (2015) ★★

4.45 The Highway Rat
5.15 BBC News; Weather.
5.30 Doctor Who
6.30 Strictly Come Dancing Christmas Special

7.40 Call the Midwife Boxing Day sees heavy snowfall covering the country and the adverse weather causes major disruption across Poplar as roads become blocked and pipes freeze.

9.00 EastEnders Things are set to explode for Max as Stacey's phone - with all Jane's incriminating voicemails - is returned to her. Mick discovers the hard way not to cross Aidan Maguire.

10.00 Mrs Brown's Boys Christmas Special First of two festive specials. Grandad is convinced the house is haunted, Cathy has an internet date and Rory hopes to improve his looks by undergoing plastic surgery.

10.35 300 Years of French & Saunders Comedy double act Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders mark the 30th anniversary of their eponymous sketch show, which ran for six series up until 2007.

11.25 BBC News; Weather.
11.40 On Christmas Night Colin Salmon reads Luke's account of the angels appearing to shepherds in the fields above Bethlehem to proclaim the joyful news of the birth of Christ.

11.45 Have I Got a Bit More 2017 News for You An extended compilation of memorable moments from the satirical quiz over the past year, with a variety of guest hosts and panellists joining captains Paul Merton and Ian Hislop.

12.30 Darcey Bussell: Looking for Fred Astaire (R) 1.30 Weather for the Week Ahead 1.35 BBC News

4.30 Dame Vera Lynn: Happy 100th Birthday (R)
5.30 Sign Zone: The Queen's Christmas Broadcast (R)

5.35 The Morecambe and Wise Christmas Show (R)
6.45 Winter's Weirdest Events (R)

7.45 Dad's Army Frazer is unable to hide his delight when Captain Mainwaring's disreputable brother gatecrashes a sherry party for local dignitaries. Classic comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (R)

8.25 Upstart Crow Will's new play is to be performed at the queen's Christmas festivities, while the Shakespeares find themselves with some uninvited guests. Emma Thompson guest stars as Elizabeth I.

9.00 Tom Jones & Beverley Knight's Gospel Christmas Tom Jones and Beverley Knight host a festive concert from Cardiff featuring a blend of traditional gospel, carols and songs of spiritual intent by greats like Prince and Bob Dylan. First shown on BBC One Wales.

10.00 Judi Dench: All the World's Her Stage Billy Connolly, Samantha Bond, Daniel Craig and Ian McKellen are among those reminiscing about the veteran actress in this celebration of her 60-year career. (R)

11.05 Mrs Henderson Presents (2005) A widow invests her fortune in an abandoned London theatre and defies censorship laws to stage a controversial nude revue. Fact-based comedy drama, with Judi Dench. ★★

12.45 FILM: My Week with Marilyn (2011) ★★ 2.15 This Is BBC Two

3.00 The Queen Her Majesty's annual address.
3.10 Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004) The teenage wizard is alarmed to learn a dangerous fugitive sorcerer is searching for him. The third in the fantasy adventure series, starring Daniel Radcliffe and Gary Oldman. ★★

5.50 Emmerdale Robert gets a taste of how different his life could be.

6.50 ITV News and Weather
7.00 Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs at Christmas Paul follows the work of Battersea Dogs & Cats Home over the festive period, hoping to find a home for a heavily pregnant stray found wet and bedraggled on Hampstead Heath.

8.00 Coronation Street Peter threatens to kill Billy, Carla's surprise arrival annoys Aidan, Daniel finds Tracy sneaking Steve out of Number 1, and Brian is arrested.

9.00 Victoria The queen and Prince Albert have very different expectations for a family Christmas and the arrival of guests at the palace causes further tension. Starring Jenna Coleman.

11.00 ITV News and Weather
11.15 The Holiday (2006) Two single women from opposite sides of the Atlantic find love after they swap houses over Christmas. Romantic comedy, with Cameron Diaz. ★★

1.45 FILM: The Dam Busters (1954) An engineer designs an ingenious bouncing bomb to destroy major dams in Germany's industrial heartland. Fact-based Second World War drama, with Michael Redgrave and Richard Todd. (b/w) ★★ 3.50 ITV Nightscreen

4.30 Dumbo (1941) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Edward Brophy. ★★

5.50 Home Alone (1990) Family comedy, starring Macaulay Culkin. ★★

7.40 The Great Christmas Bake Off Part one of two. Former contestants Paul Jagger, Beca Lyne-Pirkis, Selasi Gbormittah and Val Stones face three festive challenges in a bid to win the Christmas Star Baker title.

9.00 First Dates at Christmas The restaurant hosts a festive party as maitre d' Fred and his Christmas Cupids celebrate a year that has seen proposals, engagement rings and the show's very first baby.

10.00 Alan Carr's Christmas Chatty Man With guests Noel Gallagher, Christian Slater, John Bishop, Lorraine Kelly, Rob Beckett and Gogglebox stars Giles and Mary. Plus, music by Kasabian, Adam Lambert and Dua Lipa.

12.00 George Michael: Freedom The singer-songwriter narrates a documentary charting his life and career, focusing on the period around the release of his 1990 album Listen without Prejudice Vol 1. (R) 1.40 George Michael: Live in London Footage from the singer-songwriter's two shows at London's Earls Court in August 2008. (R) 2.45 The Crystal Maze A team of fast-food workers tackles the zones. (R) 3.40 Location, Location, Location Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer revisit property-hunters in London. (R) 4.35 Four in a Bed The competitors are invited to Grassington Lodge in North Yorkshire. (R) 5.00 Kirstie's Handmade Christmas Kirstie Allsopp showcases some of the best Christmas cakes. (R) 5.20 FILM: Moomins on the Riviera (2014) Premiere. Children's animation, with the voice of Russell Tovey. ★★

3.10 Oliver! (1968) Musical, starring Ron Moody. ★★

6.00 Elf: The Musical West End star Ben Forster is Buddy, the human child raised as one of Santa's elves in this musical stage adaptation of the hit 2003 festive film of the same name. (R)

9.00 The Morecambe and Wise Story: Look Back in Laughter Documentary making use of old performances, chat show appearances and archive interviews to shed light on the successful comedy careers of Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise. (R)

10.55 Britain's Best Loved Double Acts: Christmas Special Festive fun featuring some of the greatest double acts on the small screen, including Morecambe and Wise, French and Saunders, the Two Ronnies, Ant and Dec, and Cannon and Ball. (R)

11.55 Steptoe and Son (1972) Harold marries a stripper - but makes the mistake of letting Albert tag along on the honeymoon. Comedy based on the TV series, starring Harry H Corbett and Wilfrid Brambell. ★★

1.45 SuperCasino Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. 3.05 Love/Hate John Boy believes Stumpy has become an informant after the gardai raid one of his drug factories, and orders Darren to exact a violent revenge. (R) 4.00 Now That's Funny! A collection of internet-sourced videos with a family friendly hook, featuring people who crash weddings, sporting fails and flops, and science experiments. (R) 4.45 House Doctor Home improvement highlights from the series. (R) 5.10 House Busters (R) 5.35 Wildlife SOS (R)

Wishing all customers a Merry Christmas

Old Wyrley Hall

Olde Hall Lane
Walsall
West Midlands
WS6 6LL
01922 417271

CHB Performing Arts

The Hub,
Walsall College,
Wisemore Campus
WS2 8ES

Enoch Evans LLP

6-8 Hatherton Road
Walsall
WS1 1XS
01922 720333

Multiprint UK

1 Townsend Street
Walsall
WS2 8LP
01922 625651

GoCarz.co.uk

Wishing all their customers old and new a very Merry Christmas
Willenhall 01902 71 72 73
Walsall 01922 41 42 43

Glide & Slide

Quality Sliding Door Systems

Unit 3, Northgate Business Park, Northgate, Aldridge, Walsall WS9 8TH
www.glideandslide.co.uk
01543 679202

Sudz Bathrooms Ltd

Smart Business Park,
Unit 2-3, Chase Road,
Brownhills, Walsall
WS8 6JN
01543 379670

Prime Time

Late View

Angels
The Largest Adult Superstore in the Midlands
A VERY PRIVATE LOCATION

FANCY DRESS & MUCH, MUCH MORE!

- ♥ ADULT TOYS
- ♥ SEXY LINGERIE
- ♥ LATEX
- ♥ PLUS SIZES
- ♥ LUBES

Unit 5, Frederick St, Walsall WS2 9NE
Open: Mon-Sat 10am-6pm
Late Nights on Wednesday and Friday 10am-7pm
Now open Sundays 12 noon - 4pm

For All Your Sexy Stocking Fillers

OVER 5000 DVD'S

The Ticket

To advertise in this space
please call
Sharon Oscar 01543 465335 or
Debbie Tavner 01543 465333

Boxing Day

	BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV	Ch4	Ch5
					
	Documentary following polar bears, Snow Bears, on at 6.30pm 6.00 Breakfast News, entertainment and weather reports. 9.00 FILM: Tinker Bell and the Legend of the NeverBeast (2014) ★★★ 10.10 FILM: Planes: Fire & Rescue (2014) Premiere. Animated adventure sequel, with the voice of Dane Cook. ★★★ 11.25 Mary, Mel and Sue's Big Christmas Thank You (R) 12.25 BBC News; Weather. 12.35 Midlands Today; Weather. 12.45 Judi Dench: My Passion for Trees The actress discovers how trees are a part of Britain's history. (R) 1.45 Stick Man Animated adaptation of Julia Donaldson's children's book. (R) 2.10 FILM: Shaun the Sheep Movie (2015) Premiere. Animation, featuring the voice of Justin Fletcher. ★★★	New series, Two Doors Down - Christmas Special, on at 10.30pm 6.15 Sign Zone: Celebrity Antiques Road Trip Strictly Come Dancing 2016 champions Ore Oduba and Joanne Clifton compete. (R) 7.15 Island Parish Shetland (R) 7.45 FILM: Chimpanzee (2012) Premiere. Documentary following an orphaned chimpanzee. ★★★ 8.55 The Big Family Cooking Showdown (R) 9.55 Nadiya's British Food Adventure (R) 10.25 Nadiya's British Food Adventure (R) 10.55 The Sweet Makers: A Tudor Treat (R) 11.55 FILM: A Hard Day's Night (1964) Musical comedy, starring the Beatles. (b/w) ★★★ 1.20 FILM: The Eagle Has Landed (1976) Second World War spy adventure, with Michael Caine. ★★★	Festive edition, Birds of a Feather Christmas Special, 10.15pm 6.00 CITV: Sooty. (R) 6.10 Oddbods (R) 6.15 Om Nom Stories (R) 6.20 Signed Stories: Share a Story (R) 6.25 Almost Naked Animals (R) 6.35 Nerds & Monsters (R) 6.50 Nerds & Monsters (R) 7.05 Horrid Henry (R) 7.20 Wishfart (R) 7.30 Scrambled!: Scrambled! Christmas Special 7.35 Scrambled! The Tom and Jerry Show (R) 7.50 Scrambled! The Bagel and Becky Show (R) 8.10 Scrambled! The Powerpuff Girls (R) 8.30 FILM: Scrambled!: Scooby-Doo! Haunted Holidays (2012) ★★★ 9.05 Scrambled!: Horrid Henry (R) 9.25 FILM: Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986) ★★★ 11.25 FILM: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) ★ 1.00 ITV Racing: Live from Kempton	The family recalls stories about disasters at sea, The Simpsons, 10.25am 6.40 FILM: Song of the Sea (2014) Animated fantasy, with the voice of Lucy O'Connell. ★★★ 8.25 FILM: Short Circuit (1986) Sci-fi comedy adventure, starring Steve Guttenberg. ★★★ 10.25 The Simpsons The family recalls stories about disasters at sea. (R) 10.50 The Simpsons A department store Santa grants Lisa's Christmas wish. (R) 11.15 The Simpsons (R) 11.40 The Simpsons Marge loses all memory of Homer. (R) 12.10 FILM: Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (2009) Comedy, starring Zachary Levi. ★★ 1.55 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather. 2.00 Child Genius vs Celebrities Christmas Special Past competitors return to take on a team of celebrities. (R)	The Strictly Story: Fake Tan, Tangos & a 10 from Len, on at 7.00pm 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 Access 9.25 Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud Clips of foul-mouthed parrots and a water-skiing squirrel. (R) 10.00 FILM: Titanic (1953) An aristocrat trying to stop his wife and children leaving him finds them on board the ill-fated ship. Drama, with Clifton Webb and Barbara Stanwyck. (b/w) ★★★ 11.50 FILM: Chariots of Fire (1981) Oscar-winning drama based on the true story of British runners Eric Liddell and Harold Abrahams, going for gold at the 1924 Olympics in Paris. ★★★ 2.10 Balmoral: A Hidden History Documentary offering a behind-scenes look at the secluded royal retreat that covers 50,000 acres of the Scottish Highlands, and is Queen Elizabeth's favourite home. (R)
Early View	3.30 Doodlebugs Sketch show in which inanimate objects talk. 3.45 Mary Poppins (1964) Disney musical fantasy, with Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke. ★★★ 6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather 6.20 Midlands Today; Weather 6.30 Snow Bears Documentary following polar bears and their cubs as they travel 400 miles to reach the North Pole as springsets in, encountering other Arctic wildlife along the way. 7.30 EastEnders Life for the Brannings will never be the same again as the horror of what has happened unfolds - but it soon becomes clear Max's actions have even wider repercussions. 8.00 Little Women New series. Heidi Thomas's adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's 19th-century American coming-of-age tale begins as the four March sisters contemplate a Christmas without their father. 9.00 The Miniaturist Two-part adaptation of Jessie Burton's best-selling novel set in 1686, following 18-year-old Nella Oortman as she begins a new life in Amsterdam as the wife of a wealthy merchant. 10.30 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update 10.45 Match of the Day Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Bournemouth v West Ham United, Huddersfield Town v Stoke City, and West Bromwich Albion v Everton. 12.15 Stacey Dooley in the USA (R) 1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead 1.20 BBC News	3.30 The Repair Shop at Christmas (R) 4.30 Final Score 5.35 Matthew Bourne's Cinderella 7.30 Christmas University Challenge 2017 Selwyn College, Cambridge, featuring writer Robin French, take on St Andrews University, with BBC Scotland Political Editor Brian Taylor hoping for victory. Jeremy Paxman hosts. 8.00 Reindeer Family & Me Gordon Buchanan goes to live with a family from the nomadic Sami culture in Finnish Lapland, and undertakes a journey across the frozen wilderness with the help of a reindeer. 9.00 Dragons' Den A serial entrepreneur pitches his online greeting card business, and a Surrey-based inventor hopes his word game could become a family Christmas favourite. 10.00 QI Sandi Toksvig hosts the festive edition with Jason Manford, Romesh Ranganathan, Holly Walsh and Alan Davies answering the questions. 10.30 Two Doors Down - Christmas Special New series. Beth and Eric's plans for a quiet festive feast are thwarted when Cathy and Colin's flight to the French Alps is cancelled, and Christine also turns up with her granddaughter. 11.00 Joanna & Jennifer: Absolutely Champs Absolutely Fabulous duo Joanna Lumley and Jennifer Saunders explore the Champagne region of north eastern France to find out how their characters' favourite tipple is made. (R) 12.00 Saturday Night Fever - The Ultimate Disco Movie (R) 1.10 Tom Jones & Beverley Knight's Gospel Christmas (R)	3.30 E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial (1982) Sci-fi fantasy, with Henry Thomas. ★★★ 5.50 ITV News and Weather 6.10 Emmerdale Diane comforts Robert as he crumbles after reading a thank you card for Seb's presents, and watching from the shadows, Rebecca is struck by his emotion. 6.40 Jurassic World (2015) Premiere. A safari park for genetically engineered dinosaurs creates a new species - but it quickly escapes to terrorise the tourists. Action adventure sequel, with Chris Pratt. ★★ 9.00 Coronation Street Eileen keeps vigil over a comatose Billy while worrying about a missing Todd. Daniel finds Adam semi-conscious, and Carla begs Roy not to reveal her secret. 10.00 ITV News and Weather 10.15 Birds of a Feather Christmas Special Tracey's plans could upset the festive harmony. Sharon finds a novel way of doing her Christmas shopping and Dorien has a mystery to solve. Comedy, starring Pauline Quirke. (R) 11.15 The Keith and Paddy Picture Show Keith Lemon and Paddy McGuinness enlist the aid of Will Mellor, Robbie Williams, Sarah Parish, Emma Willis and Chris Kamara and others as they remake the 1984 classic Ghostbusters. (R) 11.45 Al Murray's Make Christmas Great Again Philosopher, common sense commando, scholar, sage and bald bloke The Pub Landlord arranges a lock-in with a celebrity guest audience for a lively mix of music and chat. (R) 12.45 Jackpot247 3.00 Tenable (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show (R)	3.05 The Great Christmas Bake Off Part one of two. Former contestants compete in a series of festive challenges. (R) 4.20 The Little Mermaid (1989) Animated adventure, with the voice of Jodi Benson. ★★★ 6.00 Back to the Future (1985) A teenager travels back in time and gets stuck in the 1950s - where he has to make sure his parents fall in love. Sci-fi comedy adventure, with Michael J Fox and Christopher Lloyd. ★★★ 8.00 Travel Man: 48 Hours in Hong Kong Richard Ayoade is joined by actor Jon Hamm, star of Mad Men and Baby Driver, for a Yuletide trek around Hong Kong - the most visited and most vertical city on the planet. 9.00 Big Fat Quiz of the Year 2017 Jimmy Carr hosts a comedy quiz looking back at the past 12 months, with panellists Richard Ayoade, Noel Fielding, David Mitchell, Big Narstie, Roisin Conaty and Katherine Ryan. 11.10 Four Weddings and a Funeral (1994) A man's misfortunes in love look set to change when he meets an American beauty at a wedding. Richard Curtis's romantic comedy, starring Hugh Grant, Andie MacDowell and John Hannah. ★★★ 1.20 The Inbetweeners (R) 1.50 The Inbetweeners (R) 2.15 The Inbetweeners (R) 2.45 The Inbetweeners (R) 3.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R) 4.00 Location, Location, Location. (R) 4.55 Kirstie's Handmade Christmas (R) 5.10 FILM: Moshi Monsters: The Movie (2013) Animated adventure, with the voice of Emma Tate. ★★★	4.10 Sandringham: The Queen At Christmas What Christmas is like for the Royal Family on the Sandringham Estate. 5.15 A Royal Night Out (2015) Premiere. Comedy drama, starring Bel Powley and Sarah Gadon. ★★ 7.00 The Strictly Story: Fake Tan, Tangos & a 10 from Len The tale behind the popular celebrity dance contest, featuring contributions from popular past contestants as well as the show's judges and professional dancers and celebrity fans. (R) 8.30 Dirty Dancing: Making Movie Magic A 30th anniversary celebration of the movie phenomenon, revisiting favourite scenes, discovering what happened on set and hearing from the supporting cast and crew. (R) 10.00 Dirty Dancing (1987) A dance instructor at a 1960s resort teaches a naive teenager about self-expression as they perform in an important show. Romantic drama, with Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey. ★★ 12.00 Football on 5: The Championship Colin Murray introduces action from the Boxing Day games. 12.55 Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights Highlights from the 11th round of matches. 1.45 SuperCasino Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. 3.05 Love/Hate John Boy's deceit sparks a gang war. (R) 4.00 Now That's Funny! Internet-sourced videos with an amusing family friendly hook. (R) 4.45 House Doctor Highlights of the series. (R) 5.10 House Busters A south London home. (R) 5.35 Wildlife SOS (R)
Prime Time					
Late View					

BBC 1



Anya Taylor-Joy stars in The Miniaturist, on at 9.00pm

6.00 Breakfast News, entertainment and weather reports. 7.45 Match of the Day Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches. (R) 9.15 FILM: **Turbo (2013)** Animated adventure, with the voice of Ryan Reynolds. ★★ 10.45 FILM: **The Princess and the Frog (2009)** ★★ 12.15 **Snow Bears** Documentary following polar bears travelling to the North Pole. (R) 1.15 **BBC News** The latest national and international stories. 1.25 **Midlands Today; Weather** 1.35 **Father Brown** Sid falls for the heiress to a local brewery. (R) 2.20 FILM: **Shrek 2 (2004)** Animated adventure sequel, with the voice of Mike Myers. ★★

BBC 2



Documentary about the early years, Oasis: Supersonic, 10.00pm

6.25 **Sign Zone: Mary Berry's Country House Secrets** Mary visits the March family at Goodwood House. (R) 7.25 **Island Parish Shetland (R)** 7.55 FILM: **Bears (2014)** Premiere. Documentary following a family of bears in Alaska. ★★ 9.10 **The Big Family Cooking Showdown (R)** 10.10 **Nadiya's British Food Adventure (R)** 10.40 **Nadiya's British Food Adventure (R)** 11.10 **The Sweet Makers: A Georgian Treat (R)** 12.10 FILM: **The Red Shoes (1948)** Powell and Pressburger's drama, starring Moira Shearer. ★★ 2.20 **The World's Most Extraordinary Homes** Unusual homes built in mountainous regions of the world. (R)

ITV



Neil Dudgeon stars, Midsomer Murders, 1.00pm

6.00 CITV: **Sooty (R)** 6.10 **The Oddbods Show (R)** 6.15 **Om Nom Stories (R)** 6.20 **Super 4 (R)** 6.35 **Super 4 (R)** 6.45 **Mr Bean: The Animated Series (R)** 7.00 **Mr Bean: The Animated Series (R)** 7.10 **Horrid Henry (R)** 7.25 FILM: **K-9 (1989)** Police comedy, starring James Belushi. ★★ 9.25 FILM: **Twins (1988)** Comedy, with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny DeVito. ★★ 11.25 **Cannonball Christmas Special (R)** 12.25 **You've Been Framed!** Judy Murray toughens up Andy by using him for target practice. 12.55 **ITV Lunchtime News; Weather** 12.58 **Central News and Weather** 1.00 **Midsomer Murders** A man is stabbed to death during a ghost-hunting party. (R)

CH4



Professor Noel treats a poorly penguin, The Supervet, on at 7.00pm

6.40 FILM: **Short Circuit 2 (1988)** A curious robot meets an old friend and sets off for an adventure in New York. Sci-fi comedy sequel, starring Fisher Stevens, with the voice of Tim Blaney. ★★ 8.40 **Lego Masters** The hunt is on for the UK and Ireland's best Lego builders. (R) 9.40 **The Simpsons** With the voice of Frances McDormand. (R) 10.10 **The Simpsons** Groundskeeper Willie is forced to move in with the family. (R) 10.35 **The Simpsons** Grampa becomes a matador. (R) 11.05 FILM: **Small Soldiers (1998)** A computer chip brings a squad of toy soldiers to life, causing mayhem for their owner. Children's adventure, with Kirsten Dunst. ★★ 1.15 FILM: **Sunshine on Leith (2013)** Musical, starring George MacKay. ★★

CH5



Most Shocking Celebrity Moments 2017, on at 9.00pm

6.00 **Milkshake!** 9.15 **Cruising with Jane McDonald** The presenter embarks on a series of ocean odysseys. (R) 9.30 **World's Strongest Man 2017** Highlights of the World Tour Finals. 10.30 FILM: **North Sea Hijack (1979)** Thriller, starring Roger Moore. ★★ 12.25 FILM: **Operation Crossbow (1965)** Three engineers parachute into occupied Holland to destroy a missile base - but there is a traitor in their midst. Second World War adventure, with George Peppard and Sophia Loren. ★★ 2.40 FILM: **Operation: Daybreak (1975)** Fact-based Second World War drama about the killing of leading Nazi Reinhard Heydrich and the search for the assassins. Starring Timothy Bottoms. ★★

3.45 **The Gruffalo (R)**
4.10 **Big Hero 6 (2014)** ★★

5.45 **Pointless (R)**
6.30 **BBC News**
6.50 **Midlands Today; Weather**

7.00 **Celebrity Mastermind** New series. John Humphrys presents the first in a new series of the classic quiz show, as Jack Ashton, Rich Hall, Guy Mowbray and Pam Ayres face the famous black chair.

7.30 **A Question of Sport: Premier League Special** Sue Barker asks the questions in the light-hearted quiz, with Dion Dublin, Graeme Le Saux, Darren Bent and Alex Scott joining team captains Matt Dawson and Phil Tufnell.

8.00 **Little Women** The March sisters must fend for themselves at home as Marmee is preoccupied with caring for her ailing husband, but the girls face an insurmountable challenge as Beth falls ill.

9.00 **The Miniaturist** Two-part adaptation of Jessie Burton's best-selling novel set in 1686. In the second episode, Nella desperately tries to turn the fortunes of the Brandt household around.

10.00 **BBC News at Ten**
10.20 **Midlands Today; Weather; National Lottery Update**

10.30 **Mrs Brown's Boys Christmas Special (R)**

11.00 **Not Going Out Christmas Special (R)**

11.40 **Comic Relief 2017: 'Twas the Thanks After Red Nose Day** A compilation looking back at some of the highlights from the 2017 Comic Relief fundraising event, featuring a host of celebrities appearances and comedic routines.

12.40 **Weather for the Week Ahead** 12.45 **BBC News**

3.20 **Inside the Factory (R)**
4.20 **The Man Who Never Was (1956)** ★★

6.00 **Thailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise (R)**
7.00 **Dad's Army** Mainwaring finds himself bidding against Pike for an orange at a fundraising bazaar, but the private reveals a stubborn streak that costs the captain dear. (R)

7.30 **Christmas University Challenge 2017** In the third match of the Christmas series, teams of university alumni from the University of York and University of Southampton compete.

8.00 **Six Robots & Us** A unique experiment exploring the latest innovations in robotics, to examine how useful robots can be in enhancing the lives of ordinary families.

9.00 **Alan Partridge: Why, When, Where, How and Whom?** Documentary celebrating 25 years of Steve Coogan's comic creation, featuring contributions from writers and co-stars and previously unseen rehearsal and improv footage.

10.00 **Oasis: Supersonic (2016)** Premiere. Documentary about the early years of the Manchester band, featuring concert footage and first-hand accounts of the sibling rivalry between Noel and Liam Gallagher. ★★

11.55 **NFL This Week** Action from the 16th round of fixtures, which included Green Bay Packers v Minnesota Vikings, New Orleans Saints v Atlanta Falcons, and Philadelphia Eagles v Oakland Raiders.

12.45 **Britpop at the BBC** 1.45 **Blur at Glastonbury (R)** 2.45 **Sign Zone: Joanna & Jennifer: Absolutely Changers (R)** 3.45 FILM: **Sign Zone: Bill (2015)** ★★

3.00 **Tenable** A team of five from Cornwall answers questions about top 10 lists. (R)

4.00 **Tipping Point** Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R)

5.00 **The Chase** Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R)

6.00 **Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs** The comedian returns to Battersea Dogs & Cats Home in London, meeting a British bulldog with a leg problem and helping to wash a smelly English mastiff. (R)

6.30 **ITV News Central; Weather.**

6.45 **ITV Evening News; Weather.**

7.00 **Emmerdale** Zak enlists Faith's help in faking the paperwork to save the Dingle home, while Liv is delighted to see that Aaron and Alex are together.

7.30 **Coronation Street** Eileen tries to find out more about Billy's fall, Adam vows to get justice for his mum's death, and Alya discovers why new clients do not want to meet with her.

8.00 **Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (2005)** The teenage wizard is chosen to represent Hogwarts School in a dangerous magical tournament. Fourth instalment of the fantasy saga, starring Daniel Radcliffe and Robert Pattinson. ★★

10.50 **ITV Evening News; Weather.**

11.04 **ITV Central Weather**
11.05 **Tina & Bobby** Drama about footballer Bobby Moore's life with his childhood sweetheart Tina Dean, from their humble beginnings to superstardom. (R)

12.05 **Get Shirty (R)** 12.55 **Jackpot247** 3.00 **May the Best House Win (R)**

3.10 **Four Rooms with Sarah Beeny**
4.15 **Channel 4 News**
4.30 **Back to the Future Part II (1989)** ★★

6.30 **Hollyoaks**
7.00 **The Supervet at Christmas** Noel Fitzpatrick is called upon to help a Humboldt penguin chick that needs surgery on its foot. He also treats a cat with a mysterious swelling and a husky has a hip operation. (R)

8.00 **Supershoppers Sales Special** Anna Richardson and Sabrina Grant offer money-saving tips, and investigate some of the slashed prices and discounts from retailers that may not be all they seem.

9.00 **Miranda Does Christmas** A Christmas special hosted by comedian Miranda Hart, featuring a unique gospel choir performance, and a festive version of a Destiny's Child classic.

10.00 **First Dates at Christmas** The restaurant hosts a festive party as maitre d' Fred and his Christmas Cupids celebrate a year that has seen proposals, engagement rings and the show's very first baby. (R)

11.05 **East Is East (1999)** Two Asian teenagers in 1970s Salford are horrified when their traditionally minded father plans arranged marriages for them. Comedy drama, starring Om Puri and Jimi Mistry. ★★

12.50 **Very British Problems at Christmas (R)** 1.45 **That's So Last Century (R)** 2.35 **Britain's Favourite Superhero (R)** 4.00 **Location, Location, Location (R)** 4.55 **Four in a Bed (R)** 5.20 **Kirstie's Handmade Christmas (R)** 5.40 FILM: **Holiday Inn (1942)** (b/w) ★★

The Ticket



To advertise in
this space
please call
01902 313131

Wonderland Day Nursery

30 HOURS FREE
CHILD CARE AVAILABLE
FOR ELIGIBLE 3-5 YEAR
OLDS

All children 6 weeks to 5 years welcome.
Childcare vouchers accepted. Free funded
places for 2-5 year olds available.

0121 556 6222

57 Holyhead Road, Wednesbury WS10 7DF
www.wonderlanddaynursery.co.uk

FIND YOUR IDEAL CANDIDATE

Join over 2,000 local companies who successfully recruit with us every year

To find out more, call 01902 319645.

MNA Recruitment

Thursday, December 28

Early View

BBC 1



Granville faces being left alone at Christmas, Still Open All Hours, 7.30pm

6.00 Breakfast A round-up of national and international news, plus current affairs, arts and entertainment, and weather. **9.00 FILM: The Pirates! In an Adventure with Scientists!** (2012) Animated comedy, with the voice of Hugh Grant. **★ ★ ★ 10.20 FILM: Kung Fu Panda** (2008) Animated comedy, with the voice of Jack Black. **★ ★ ★ 11.45 Bargain Hunt** Two teams test their antiques knowledge. (R) **12.45 BBC News at One; Weather** **1.00 Midlands Today; Weather** **1.05 Father Brown** The clerical sleuth encounters a voodoo priest. (R) **1.50 Revolting Rhymes** Part one of two. (R) **2.20 FILM: Shrek the Third** (2007) Animated sequel, with the voice of Mike Myers. **★ ★ ★**

BBC 2



Steve Coogan stars, Alan Partridge: Alpha Papa, on at 11.30pm

6.45 Sign Zone: MasterChef: The Professionals (R) **7.45 FILM: Ray Harryhausen: Special Effects Titan** (2011) A tribute to the visual effects artist. **★ ★ ★ 9.15 The Big Family Cooking Showdown** (R) **10.15 Nadiya's British Food Adventure** (R) **10.45 Nadiya's British Food Adventure** (R) **11.15 The Sweet Makers: A Victorian Treat** (R) **12.15 FILM: Love Is a Many Splendored Thing** (1955) Fact-based romantic drama, with William Holden and Jennifer Jones. **★ ★ 1.55 Supercharged Otters: Natural World** Documentary following three orphaned river otters. (R) **2.55 The World's Most Extraordinary Homes** Unusual homes in forest regions around the world. (R)

ITV



Bradley Walsh hosts the quiz show, The Chase, on at 5.00pm

6.00 Good Morning Britain Shaun Williamson gives the lowdown on his appearance in Peter Pan, and Chris Packham, talks about his dinosaur documentary *The Real T. Rex*. **8.30 Lorraine** **9.25 FILM: Babe** (1995) A piglet dreams of being a champion sheepdog but several greedy humans are determined to see him end up on a dinner plate. Family comedy, with James Cromwell. **★ ★ ★ ★ 11.05 FILM: Black Beauty** (1994) Family drama, starring Sean Bean. **★ ★ ★ 12.45 ITV Lunchtime News** **12.55 ITV News Central** **1.00 Midsomer Murders** As Midsomer St Claire prepares for storms and flooding, it appears a murderer is using ancient torture methods to punish modern-day "sinners". (R)

CH4



Joel confides in Sienna about his feelings, Hollyoaks, on at 6.30pm

7.20 FILM: The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie (2004) Children's animated comedy, with the voice of Tom Kenny. **★ ★ ★ 8.55 Lego Masters** The teams compete in two challenges on the theme of movement. (R) **10.00 The Simpsons** Marge joins the local police academy. (R) **10.30 The Simpsons** Homer gets a new wife. With the voice of Ricky Gervais. (R) **11.00 FILM: Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World** (2011) Two children learn their stepmother is a secret agent and help her battle an evil genius with the power to control time. Family adventure, starring Jessica Alba and Jeremy Piven. **★ ★ 12.45 FILM: The Net** (1995) Thriller, with Sandra Bullock and Jeremy Northam. **★ ★**

CH5



Action from the second heat, World's Strongest Man 2017, on at 8.00pm

6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 Cruising with Jane McDonald Highlights of Jane's tour of Alaska, America's largest state. (R) **9.30 The Gadget Show** (R) **10.25 FILM: The 7th Voyage of Sinbad** (1958) Fantasy adventure, with Kerwin Mathews. **★ ★ ★ 12.15 FILM: The Vikings** (1958) A Norse warrior fights to claim the Northumbrian throne, unaware his rival for the crown is really his half-brother. Adventure, with Kirk Douglas, Tony Curtis and Janet Leigh. **★ ★ ★ ★ 2.30 FILM: Jason and the Argonauts** (1963) The son of an overthrown king battles monsters during an epic voyage in search of a magical golden fleece. Fantasy adventure, with Todd Armstrong and Honor Blackman. **★ ★ ★**

Prime Time

3.45 The Gruffalo's Child (R)

4.10 How to Train Your Dragon 2 (2014) **★ ★ ★**

5.45 Pointless (R)

6.30 BBC News

6.45 Midlands Today; Weather

7.00 Celebrity Mastermind Antiques expert Philip Serrell, comedian and actor Richard McCourt, poet and presenter Lemn Sissay and Sports anchor Olivia Wayne compete.

7.30 Still Open All Hours New series. Granville faces being left alone at Christmas as all his friends and neighbours make plans to go away – leaving him at the amorous mercy of Mrs Featherstone.

8.00 EastEnders Fi breaks into Willmott-Brown's office to find out the truth about her father, while he tries to manipulate Kathy. Karen reaches out to her sister for financial help.

8.30 Little Women Jo feels snubbed when Amy is chosen over her to accompany Aunt Carroll's daughter on a tour of Europe, so she flees to New York to pursue her career. Last in the series.

9.30 EastEnders Fi is sickened to discover how low her family have sunk, Linda is hell-bent on finding another local pub to manage and Bernadette tells Kandice about the family's money troubles.

10.00 BBC News

10.15 Midlands Today

10.25 Bruno Mars: Live in Harlem

11.10 U2 at the BBC The band performs some of their biggest hits at Abbey Road Studios, alongside tracks from their latest album, *Songs of Experience*, and chat to Cat Deeley about their lives. (R)

12.25 Weather for the Week Ahead **12.30 BBC News**

3.55 Inside the Factory (R) **4.55 The Heroes of Telemark** (1965) **★ ★ ★**

7.00 Thailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise Exploring the forests, plains and cities of Central Thailand, and revealing how the nation's people find spiritual fulfilment in their relationships with animals. (R)

8.00 Christmas University Challenge 2017 Teams from the University of Leicester and UCL compete, with Paralympian Danielle Brown, Sky at Night presenter Pete Lawrence and the BBC's Jeremy Bowen among the contestants.

8.30 Six Robots & Us Part two of two. The experts deliver more robots to families around the UK, including a north London couple who receive a machine designed to help their autistic four-year-old.

9.30 Attenborough and the Empire of the Ants David Attenborough tells the story of two physically identical species of ant that have two very different strategies to survive the harsh environment of the Swiss Alps.

10.30 Romesh Ranganathan: Irrational Live The comedian's first-ever live stand-up show, in which the Bafta-nominated star takes shots at everyone from his children to a stranger in a coffee shop.

11.30 Alan Partridge: Alpha Papa (2013) The hapless local radio DJ ends up in the middle of a siege when a colleague responds to being fired by taking hostages. Comedy, starring Steve Coogan. **★ ★ ★**

12.55 FILM: Oasis: Supersonic (2016) **★ ★ ★ 2.55 Sign Zone: Employable Me** (R)

3.00 Tenable Quiz, hosted by Warwick Davis. (R)

4.00 Tipping Point Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R)

5.00 The Chase Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R)

6.00 Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs The comedian tries to train three huge puppies that spent the first five months of their lives being raised by a homeless man, and sets out to reunite a Jack Russell with its owner. (R)

6.30 ITV News Central; Weather.

6.45 ITV Evening News; Weather.

7.00 Emmerdale Rebecca confesses her plans, Jimmy and Nicola receive a tempting offer, and Bernice prepares for her date.

8.00 Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (2007) The wizard forms his fellow pupils into a secret army to battle the resurrected Lord Voldemort. Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson and Gary Oldman. **★ ★ ★**

10.35 ITV News; Weather.

10.54 ITV Central Weather

10.55 Tina & Bobby The West Ham player leads England to World Cup glory at Wembley and fame and fortune follow, as the couple become icons of their time. Lorne MacFadyen and Michelle Keegan star. (R)

11.55 Stuck on You: The Football Sticker Story How four Italian brothers took a childhood obsession and turned it into a worldwide industry – and the British upstarts who took on the mighty Panini to beat them at their own game. (R)

12.45 Jackpot247 **3.00 Tenable** (R) **3.50 ITV Nightscreen**

3.00 Four Rooms with Sarah Beeny

4.00 Channel 4 News

4.20 Back to the Future Part III (1990) **★ ★ ★**

6.30 Hollyoaks

7.00 We're Going on a Bear Hunt Animated adventure based on Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury's popular children's story, featuring the voices of Olivia Colman, Pam Ferris and Mark Williams. (R)

7.30 The Secret Life of the Zoo at Christmas Chester Zoo's keepers are busy making gifts for all the animals, and it is a chaotic free-for-all when the festive parcels are handed over to the chimps. (R)

8.30 The Secret Life of 5 Year Olds on Holiday One-off special in which familiar faces from the observational series are shown away from the classroom as they and their families jet off to the Sunning resort in Cyprus.

9.00 What Britain Bought in 2017 Mary Portas surveys Britain's spending habits over the past 12 months, and looks back at some of the retail stories, such as the popularity of Prosecco and the fidget spinner.

10.00 The Undateables at Christmas Familiar faces from the dating show share their extra special plans for the festive season, with Daniel from Brighton busy planning the release of his latest single. (R)

11.05 About a Boy (2002) A womaniser who poses as a father to meet single women changes his ways after befriending a lonely youngster. Romantic comedy, with Hugh Grant, Toni Collette and Nicholas Hoult. **★ ★ ★**

12.55 Alan Carr's Christmas Chatty Man (R) **2.50 Paul O'Grady's 100 Years of Movie Musicals** (R)

4.30 André Rieu: My Life in Music Profile of the Dutch violinist. (R)

6.00 André Rieu: Christmas in London A festive concert by the Dutch violinist and the Johann Strauss Orchestra, featuring carols as well as songs including Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah* and the *Concierto de Aranjuez*. (R)

7.00 Winter in Alaska Documentary following four seasons in the north American state, beginning with winter, where snowfall is measured in feet rather than inches; (R) **5 News Update**

8.00 World's Strongest Man 2017 Action from the second heat in Botswana, which featured Iceland's Hafthor Julius Björnsson, a man who has stood on the podium five times but has never been crowned champion; **5 News Tonight**

9.00 Flight (2012) Premiere. A pilot is hailed as a hero for bringing a malfunctioning plane down safely – until it emerges he was drunk at the controls. Drama, with Denzel Washington and Don Cheadle. **★ ★ ★**

11.45 The Taking of Pelham 123 (2009) Criminals hijack a crowded New York subway train and threaten to kill the passengers unless they are paid \$10million. Thriller remake, with Denzel Washington and John Travolta. **★ ★ ★**

1.45 SuperCasino Live interactive gaming. **3.05 Love/Hate** The gang members' lives spiral out of control. (R) **4.00 Cruising with Jane McDonald** A Lilliputian lode round the Inner Hebrides puts Jane in touch with her Scottish roots. (R) **4.45 House Doctor** A slightly neglected 200-year-old cottage. (R) **5.10 House Busters** (R) **5.35 Wildlife SOS** (R)



DO YOU HAVE A CURRENT HR ISSUE?

What can we help you with:

- Disciplinary & Grievance
- Absence & sickness management
- Staff appraisals and performance management
- Redundancy, termination & exit interviews
- Company change & restructuring
- Terms & conditions of employment and contracts of employment
- TUPE transfers

CLAIM YOUR
FREE
30 MINUTES
OF EXPERT
HR ADVICE*



CALL US ON
01902 319320

*Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the assessment, the free initial assessment is provided as a goodwill gesture and without any assumption of a duty of care or any legal or other liability to you. We will not accept liability for any loss arising from the free assessment.

Part of The Midland News Association Ltd

Early View

Prime Time

Late View

BBC 1



Rob Brydon hosts the comedy panel show, Would I Lie to You? 8.30pm

6.00 Breakfast News, entertainment and weather reports. 9.00 FILM: **Monsters vs Aliens** (2009) Animated sci-fi comedy, with the voice of Reese Witherspoon. ★★ 10.25 **Shaun the Sheep: The Farmer's Llamas** (R) 10.55 FILM: **Kung Fu Panda 2** (2011) Animated comedy sequel, with the voice of Jack Black. ★★ 12.15 **Bargain Hunt** From Built With Walls, Powys. (R) 12.45 **BBC News at One**; Weather 1.00 **Midlands Today**; Weather 1.10 **Father Brown** The priest investigates the murder of a B-movie director. (R) 1.55 **Revolting Rhymes** The second of two animations based on Roald Dahl's children's book. (R) 2.25 FILM: **Up** (2009) Animated adventure, with the voice of Ed Asner. ★★

BBC 2



Frankie Boyle's 2017 New Year World Order, on at 10.00pm

6.35 **Sign Zone: MasterChef: The Professionals** Challenges include making a fruit-based dessert. (R) 7.35 FILM: **G-Force** (2009) Children's adventure, starring Bill Nighy. ★★ 8.55 **The Big Family Cooking Showdown** (R) 9.55 **Nadiya's British Food Adventure** (R) 10.25 **Nadiya's British Food Adventure** (R) 10.55 **Puerto Rico - Island of Enchantment: Natural World** (R) 11.55 FILM: **Three Coins in the Fountain** (1954) Romantic drama, starring Dorothy McGuire. ★★ 1.35 **Nature's Weirdest Events** The town brought to a standstill by a swarm of flying insects. (R) 2.05 **The World's Most Extraordinary Homes** A house in Canada inspired by two ships in dry dock. (R)

ITV



Warwick Davis hosts the quiz show, Tenable, on at 3.00pm

6.00 **Good Morning Britain** Ventriloquist and America's Got Talent winner Paul Zerdin talks about his stint in panto. Plus, news and current affairs, plus health, entertainment and lifestyle features. 8.30 **Lorraine** Entertainment and fashion news. 9.25 **Best Walks with a View** with Julia Bradbury The presenter ventures towards Cumbria's High Cup Nick. (R) 9.50 FILM: **Everything or Nothing: The Untold Story of 007** (2012) Documentary about the making of the James Bond films. ★★ 11.45 **Bond Girls Are Forever** The thrill of being a Bond girl. (R) 12.45 **ITV Lunchtime News**; Weather. 12.55 **ITV News Central**; Weather. 1.00 **Midsomer Murders** A man is mauled to death by a wild boar. (R)

Ch4



Ashley Jensen guests, Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast, on at 8.00pm

7.05 FILM: **Black Nativity** (2013) Musical, starring Jacob Latimore. ★★ 8.50 **Lego Masters** The teams compete in two challenges on the theme of nature. (R) 9.50 **The Simpsons** Bart develops a sense of civic pride. (R) 10.20 **The Simpsons** Springfield gets a new telephone code. (R) 10.50 **The Simpsons** Homer and Marge dispense marital advice. (R) 11.15 FILM: **Hotel for Dogs** (2009) An orphaned brother and sister in foster care transform an abandoned hotel into luxury accommodation for stray dogs. Family comedy, with Emma Roberts, Jake T Austin and Don Cheadle. ★★ 1.20 FILM: **Cutthroat Island** (1995) Swashbuckling adventure, with Geena Davis. ★★

Ch5



Action from the third heat, World's Strongest Man 2017, on at 8.00pm

6.00 **Milkshake!** 9.00 FILM: **Arthur 2: On the Rocks** (1988) The drunken millionaire is bankrupt, while his wife wants to have a baby and pushes him into taking responsibility for once. Comedy sequel, with Dudley Moore and Liza Minnelli. ★ 11.10 FILM: **Dirty Rotten Scoundrels** (1988) Two rival conmen on the French Riviera make a wager over who will be the first to trick a glamorous heiress out of her fortune. Comedy, starring Michael Caine and Steve Martin. ★★ 1.20 FILM: **Labyrinth** (1986) A teenager travels through a magical maze to rescue her baby brother from a band of goblins and their sinister king. Fantasy adventure, starring Jennifer Connelly and David Bowie. ★★

3.50 **Room on the Broom** (R) 4.20 **Brave** (2012) ★★ 5.45 **Pointless** (R) 6.30 **BBC News at Six**; Weather 6.45 **Midlands Today**; Weather 7.00 **Celebrity Mastermind** Actor John Bradley, hockey player Crista Cullen, Radio 1Xtra presenter Nick Bright and Hollyoaks actress Anna Passey compete in the specialist and general knowledge quiz. 7.30 **Tim Vine Travels Through Time Christmas Special** Tim journeys back in time to Tudor England in a quest to find a silver lion and bring Christmas to Henry VIII's court. Comedy, guest starring Emma Bunton and the Rev Richard Coles. 8.00 **EastEnders** Mick has to decide whether he is part of Aidan's gang, Carmel and Shakil put paid to Kush and Denise's hopes of a quiet night in, and the Vic regulars see the year out with a bang. 8.30 **Would I Lie to You?** Rob Brydon hosts the comedy panel show, with Steve Davis, Craig Parkinson, Sara Pascoe and Claudia Winkleman joining team captains David Mitchell and Lee Mack. 9.00 **BBC News** 9.10 **Midlands Today**; Weather; National Lottery Update 9.15 **Gone Girl** (2014) Premiere. A man reports his wife's disappearance, only to end up under media scrutiny and accused of murder. David Fincher's crime thriller, with Ben Affleck. ★★ 11.40 **Michael McIntyre's Big Christmas Show** The comedy star concludes his entertainment showcase with a festive special. (R) 12.45 **Weather for the Week Ahead** 12.50 **BBC News**

3.05 **Inside the Factory** (R) 4.05 **The Desert Fox** (1951) (b/w) ★★ 5.30 **Thailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise** (R) 6.30 **Christmas University Challenge 2017** 7.00 **Morecambe & Wise: Leading Ladies** Penelope Keith presents a compilation of highlights from the comedy duo's shows featuring appearances by female stars of stage and screen. (R) 8.00 **Eric & Ernie's Home Movies** Footage of Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise's home movies, chronicling their rise to fame as well as recording key moments in their private lives. 9.00 **Vic & Bob's Big Night Out** Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer present an updated version of Vic Reeves Big Night Out, featuring new and old characters and a healthy dose of slapstick humour. 9.30 **Live at the Apollo** Katherine Ryan hosts a festive instalment from the stage of London's Hammersmith Apollo, featuring Marlon Davis, Joel Dommett and John Robb. Last in the series. 10.00 **Frankie Boyle's 2017 New Year World Order** The comedian tries to make sense of the past 12 months. 10.30 **Q1XL** With Jason Manford, Romesh Ranganathan and Holly Walsh. 11.15 **The Great Gatsby** (2013) A naive writer befriends a decadent millionaire and slowly uncovers the dark underside of his lavish lifestyle. Period drama, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Tobey Maguire. ★★ 1.35 **Sign Zone: Doctor Who** (R) 2.35 FILM: **Sign Zone: Cinderella** (2015) ★★ 4.30 **This Is BBC Two**

3.00 **Tenable** A team of five from Merseyside answers questions. Last in the series. (R) 4.00 **Tipping Point** Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R) 5.00 **The Chase** Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R) 6.00 **Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs** A puppy is rushed to the clinic when an injury comes to light just days after arriving at Battersea, while Paul pampers a Yorkshire terrier that has been given up by its owner. (R) 6.30 **ITV News Central**; Weather. 6.45 **ITV Evening News**; Weather. 7.00 **Emmerdale** The Dingles get ready, and Bernice makes arrangements. 7.30 **Coronation Street** Roy begs Carla not to return to Devon and to move in with him instead, and Adam offers to help Geraldine get Summer taken away from Todd and Billy. 8.00 **Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince** (2009) The wizard must uncover the secrets of Lord Voldemort's past to try to end the evil sorcerer's reign of terror. Fantasy adventure sequel, with Daniel Radcliffe and Michael Gambon. ★★ 10.50 **ITV News**; Weather. 11.09 **ITV Central Weather** 11.10 **Tina & Bobby** The former England star winds up managing a lowly non-league side, and Tina dismisses rumours he's having an affair - until her worst fears are confirmed. Last in the series. (R) 12.10 **Bea's Mission with Rob Brydon** (R) 1.05 **Jackpot247** Interactive gaming. 3.00 **100 Year Old Drivers** (R) 3.50 **ITV Nightscreen** Text-based information service.

3.40 **Four Rooms with Sarah Beeny** Items include a Second World War Tommy Gun. 4.45 **Channel 4 News** 5.00 **The Simpsons** Lisa joins a group of eco-radicals. (R) 5.30 **The Simpsons** Mr Burns hires Homer to play pranks. (R) 6.00 **Hollyoaks** Tom celebrates his birthday at The Loft. 7.00 **Travel Man: 48 Hours in Hong Kong** Richard Ayoade is joined by actor Jon Hamm, star of Mad Men and Baby Driver, for a Yuletide trek around Hong Kong - the most visited and most vertical city on the planet. (R) 8.00 **Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast** Jamie Oliver and Jimmy Doherty are joined by Ashley Jensen, who learns to make authentic Umbrian pasta with truffle. Jimmy also helps the RNLI create the perfect fundraising feast. 9.00 **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown Christmas Special** Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the words and numbers quiz, with Jon Richardson and Catherine Tate teaming up against Sean Lock and Joe Wilkinson. 10.00 **Gogglebox** 2017 Highlights from the most recent series, featuring the armchair critics' reactions to The Crystal Maze, the Weakest Link Celebrity Special, and Mary Berry's Country House Secrets. (R) 12.05 FILM: **I Give It a Year** (2013) ★★ 1.55 FILM: **The River Wild** (1994) ★★ 3.50 **Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** (R) 4.35 **Four in a Bed** (R) 5.00 **Jamie's Cracking Christmas** (R) 5.15 FILM: **The Three Musketeers** (1973) ★★

3.20 **Look Who's Talking** (1989) Comedy, starring Kirstie Alley. ★★ 5.10 **Footloose** (1984) Drama, starring Kevin Bacon. ★★ 7.00 **Winter in Yorkshire** As winter takes its toll, cameras follow grey seal pups at Ravenscar beach, and the progress of many short-eared owls that land on the moors; (R) 5 News Update 8.00 **World's Strongest Man 2017** Action from the third heat in Botswana, which featured six tasks including the 15-tonne Bus Pull, the 350kg Dead Lift and the 200kg Elephant Carry; 5 News Update 9.00 **Victoria Wood By Her Friends** Profile of the writer and comedian, featuring clips of some of the funniest performances of her 40-year career and contributions from friends, fans and co-stars. 10.00 **Victoria Wood: Live 1997** The comedian performs stand-up and sketches, recorded during Victoria's 1997 tour and acclaimed as one of the very best stand-up shows of the decade. (R) 12.00 **SuperCasino** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. 3.05 **Love/Hate** Nidge seizes his opportunity to take control of the gang and sets about getting his cohorts back to business and Mary discovers the extent of Luke's obsession. Last in the series. (R) 4.00 **Winter in Alaska** Documentary following four seasons in the north American state, beginning with winter, where snowfall is measured in feet rather than inches. (R) 4.45 **House Doctor** A bachelor pad in Knutsford, Cheshire. (R) 5.10 **House Busters** Life-enhancing changes to a home. (R) 5.35 **Wildlife SOS** The work of volunteers at an animal sanctuary. (R)

Local Specialists



Gutter Cleaning

Gutter Cleaning

We also clean:
**UPVC, Fascias, Conservatories
and Solar Panels**
We also Repair and Maintain

AVOID COSTLY REPAIR BILLS

We use the latest equipment, and will clear any blockages or moss build up from your gutters.
Call Today 07541-928-598

**SPECIAL
OFFER
£40**
PER PROPERTY



Carpentry

JAY'S CARPENTRY & HOME IMPROVEMENTS

**6 Internal Panel Doors
Fully Fitted Only**

£319

Also just fitting available

Call Jason: 01922 611272
/ 07951 922879
www.jayscarpentry.co.uk

Plastering

C.A. Plastering

For competitive quotes on all your refurbishment needs on plastering, boarding, overboarding, partitions, re-skimming and artex covering.

No job too small 07538 718264



Plumbing & Heating



1. Visit our
ClassifiedAds website
classifiedads.expressandstar.co.uk

Accountancy

ACCOUNTANCY AND TAXATION

Self Assessment and all accountancy services for the self employed, rental incomes, partnerships and limited companies.

01543 481329

Email: ollerenshaws@btinternet.com
www.ollerenshaws.co.uk

Electricians

MB electric

All domestic and commercial electrical works undertaken
Home rewiring from £800
For a high quality local service call:
01922 509984
07939 503905
mbelectric.co.uk

Local Specialists



Fencing

P J BROADHURST FENCING Top Quality Fencing Supplied & Fitted

All types of fence panels • Gravel boards

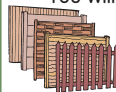
FREE QUOTES

You will be blown away by our prices!

01922 611681

07770 954073

www.pjbroadhurstfencing.co.uk



R.G. Electrical Ltd Est1995 ALDRIDGE

**DOMESTIC - COMMERCIAL - INDUSTRIAL
Homes - Shops - Offices**

- Rewires and Upgrades • Emergency Breakdown
- PAT Testing • Central Heating Wiring • Storage Heaters
- Fire Alarms • Intruder Alarms • CCTV
- Building Society Surveys NICEIC Inspections

All areas covered **0800 298 2904**

robtelectrical@blueyonder.co.uk
37 Woodside Way, Walsall WS9 0HY



Aerials

Digital Rapid Aerials

- Aerials, Plasma Brackets & CCTV
- Cameras supplied & fitted
- Repairs -Tuning -Multirooms

**OAP
DISCOUNTS
FREE
QUOTATIONS**



A LOCAL BUSINESS YOU CAN TRUST
01922 693047
07960 173589
www.digitalrapidaerials.co.uk



Double Glazing

WINDOW DOCTOR

GLAZING REPAIRS, DOORS & WINDOW REPAIRS

MISTY & BROKEN GLASS REPLACED.

WE REPAIR HANDLES, HINGES, SEALS, PATIO'S,
WINDOW & DOOR LOCKS.

10 YR GUARANTEE

01543 504900 24 HRS

07748 108035

Est 30
years

12 WELLINGTON DRIVE, CANNOCK WS11 1PU

Credit & Debit cards taken

Driveways

WESTCOT CONTRACTORS LTD

38 Years Experience

**TARMACADAM CONCRETE BLOCK PAVING
LEADING DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL CONTRACTORS COVERING
LICHFIELD AND STAFFORDSHIRE**

- Domestic Drives • Patios • Tennis Courts construction
- Commercial car parks and roads • Vehicle access crossing highway approved

Free quotations - All work guaranteed

Call for enquiries 07985 233112

Office 01543 251416

email: westcot.contractors.ltd@gmail.com

Local Specialists



**Our Specialist Section offers you a wide range of
local businesses and tradesman to deal with your
needs and requirements.**

2. Call our Classified sales
team on **01902 317 878**



3. Self Serve -
Create your own advert
in print and online - visit:
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

To advertise your business and reach more than 72,000 potential customers...

1

Call us on...
01543 465341

2

E-mail us at...
sarah.winfield@expressandstar.co.uk

3

Post to...
Sarah Jones, Walsall Chronicle,
Queen Square, Cannock. WS11 1ES

ClassifiedAds

BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

Funeral Directors

Turn To Us For Help and Support

In your time of need we'll take care of all the funeral arrangements.

- Est. 1907
- 24 hour service

G. Gibbs Funeral Directors

44 All Saints Way
West Bromwich B71 1PZ

0121 553 0442



Part of Dignity plc. A British Company.

Lost & Found

LOST PASSPORT in Stafford for a Mrs Mohammed. Passport No A4405829. Please contact if found on 07512 814940.

1 Family

Elderly & Disabled

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2 Leisure Time

Bikes

JACKSON-HATELEY CYCLES

www.jacksonhateleycycles.co.uk

MASSIVE SALE!

UP TO 20% OFF ALL MODELS

Book your cycle for Christmas now at sale price! Get your fantastic bargain now.

All cycles built and guaranteed with a 24 hour repair service

All spares and accessories at discount price

HATELEY'S

Simply the best

Ring Dave on

01902 782344

458 Stafford Road, Oxley, Wolverhampton

Boats & Water Sports

OUTBOARD MOTOR WANTED, anything considered, reasonably priced. 01922 492321.

Caravans/ Motorhomes

CARAVANS FOR SALE with sea views, Clarach Bay near Aberystwyth from £9,995 includes 2018 site fees. Call Phil on: 01970 820579. sales@clarachbay.com

Travel Abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED to check with any Advertiser that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

Music Shop

PIANO LESSONS

5 Week Starter Course

IDEAL CHRISTMAS PRESENT!

5 Lessons only £40

Fun & Friendly Piano

Teacher

Call Dawn Elizabeth on:

07973 705739

Sports & Leisure

Free Ads

IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk

3 Home & Services

Antiques

Louis Taylor

Fine Art Antiques & Valuations

House Clearances & Collections arranged at short notice for our monthly auctions

01732 638100

Furniture

ITALIAN BLACK LEATHER

Three piece suite.

One week old, totally unused.

Cost over £1,000.

Sell for £380.

Can deliver.

07901 914284.

In Your Garden

AT SHEDRITE Free Installation on

all product orders till end Jan. Wil-

lenshall Rd WV1 2HQ 01902 450137

C B SHEDS & FENCING

We supply & fit. Free quotes.

Call: 01922 720270

We also supply sleepers and decking

SLABS 450mm x 450mm RIVEN

FACED, only £1.87 inc. VAT.

Ranton Building Supplies:

01543 276006.

Items For Sale

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED

That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

ASH RECLAMATION new and used building materials, upvc doors and windows 01543 453222.

FOUR OLD style electra storage heaters, 2 little used. All in good working order. £50. Buyer to collect. 01902 790693.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

Items Wanted

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all the options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

WANTED SATNAV Tomtom etc, large screen, suitable for car and lorry, 12v to 24v plus accessories, as new. 01543 516528.

Loans

READERS ARE REMINDED that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

specialists at your service

Aerials

AA DIGITAL AERIALS

AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99

01902 858191 • 01384 429166

01543 439095 • 01922 716029

CLASSIFIEDS BOOSTS BUSINESS!

"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call

01902 319 191

Classified Ads Brought to you by Express & Star

Fitted Bedrooms

AFFORDABLE BESPOKE FITTED Sliding Wardrobes. 07813 675526 www.interiorsbyrobertstokes.com

Gardening Services

Landywood Tree & Landscaping Services

All garden work, tree felling/lopping, pruning, hedges trimmed, turf, patios, fencing, block-paving etc.

www.landywoodlandscaping.co.uk

01922 898 710 / 07973 177 976

Gas Fitting

GAS SERVICES

Boilers • Cookers • Fires • Gas Checks • Landlord Certificates • Gas Leaks Traced • Fitted, Serviced and Repaired • Same Day Service • Free Quotes • DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs

Call: 01902 366855/ 07761 973975

Appliance Repairs

A SAME DAY REPAIR - Cookers, Fridges, Washers & Microwaves. Call 07300 578537 / 07801 746853.

Building Services

P.FENLON BUILDERS All aspects of building. Block paving, plastering, brickwork etc. 01902 445315 / 07790 286187.

Building Supplies

RECLAIMED BRICKS, Tiles, Slaters, Oakbeams, Flooring, York Stone, Cawarden 01889 574066. sales@cawardenreclaim.co.uk

Carpentry & Joinery

SPR CARPENTRY Six internal pre-primed doors fully fitted from £370. 0121 5322672 or 07958 552625.

Carpet Fitters

A CARPETS & VINYLs supplied or just fitted, quality samples brought to your home, no job too small, free quotes. Call Mark 01543 820598 / 07941 619694.

Christmas Trees/ Wreaths

christmastreesatapl.co.uk

Check the above website or Call 0121 505 3558 for quality real trees, blocked & netted.

Location WS10 9HA

CHRISTMAS TREES Pine & Nordmann Fir from £20 with FREE mistletoe Holly Wreaths from £5.

TIMBERLAND PARK, 5 WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, SHADENHILL, WV10 1TY

Open 7 days a week

Electrical Services

MB ELECTRIC.CO.UK Home wiring specialist. NICEIC. High quality local service. Free phone: 0800 211 8399 / 07399 503905

Fencing

CLASSIFIEDS BOOSTS BUSINESS!

"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."

Michael - Portway Fencing

For great business results call

01902 319 191

Classified Ads Brought to you by Express & Star

Fitted Bedrooms

AFFORDABLE BESPOKE FITTED Sliding Wardrobes. 07813 675526 www.interiorsbyrobertstokes.com

Gardening Services

Landywood Tree & Landscaping Services

All garden work, tree felling/lopping, pruning, hedges trimmed, turf, patios, fencing, block-paving etc.

www.landywoodlandscaping.co.uk

01922 898 710 / 07973 177 976

Gas Fitting

GAS SERVICES

Boilers • Cookers • Fires • Gas Checks • Landlord Certificates • Gas Leaks Traced • Fitted, Serviced and Repaired • Same Day Service • Free Quotes • DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs

Call: 01902 366855/ 07761 973975

Appliance Repairs

A SAME DAY REPAIR - Cookers, Fridges, Washers & Microwaves. Call 07300 578537 / 07801 746853.

Building Services

P.FENLON BUILDERS All aspects of building. Block paving, plastering, brickwork etc. 01902 445315 / 07790 286187.

Building Supplies

RECLAIMED BRICKS, Tiles, Slaters, Oakbeams, Flooring, York Stone, Cawarden 01889 574066. sales@cawardenreclaim.co.uk

Carpentry & Joinery

SPR CARPENTRY Six internal pre-primed doors fully fitted from £370. 0121 5322672 or 07958 552625.

Gates

ALL METAL GATES, RAILINGS, etc. Free quotes, also repairs & fitting. 07903 500642 24 hours.

DARLSTON FABS 30 years exp in supplying/ fitting gates and railings.

Free quotes: 07497 667752.

Guttering

PROPERTY SOLUTIONS

A*1 GUTTERING

cleaned, repaired, replaced, facias/ soffits, UPVC washdowns, all roofing/ repointing work. Free quotes. 8am-5pm

01902 722447

House Clearances

A1 HOUSE CLEARANCE

Full, part and single rubbish removed.

Garage and sheds cleared.

Leather 3 piece suites and leather Chesterfields wanted.

01922 492007

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

ALL ROUND CLEARANCE

Professional family run business

House clearances, full or part, also garages, sheds etc.

Telephone Kev

07794 912844

HARVEYS HOUSE CLEARANCES

Quick, discreet and professional. 07939 421862 / 01902 410433

Kitchen Fitters

THE KITCHEN FITTER Over 20 years experience. Call 07881 554757 or 01543 373233.

Painters/ Decorators

C I PAINTING & DECORATING

Over 30 yrs experience. City & Guilds approved. Free Quotes. 07913 732756 or 01902 650716.

Plans Prepared

ADAM DESIGN, Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 664037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

BUILDING PLANS: Prepared/ submitted. K J Bradley 01902 373248 07792 165767. www.plans4u.co.uk

Plastering

D&C PLASTERING AND RENDERING

Fast, clean, reliable service. Also building work. Free Quotes 07793 747829 or 01543 300444.

MINT PLASTERING

For the very best in plastering and rendering, full rooms inc materials from 110. Halls, stairs and landings from 200

30 years experience.

Free quotes. All work guaranteed

01543 327130 / 07519 694516

Plumbing & Heating

A.A HEATING & PLUMBING All gas work. Install/ Service/ Repair. Free quotes call: 07540 950588.

A RELIABLE PLUMBER No job too small. No call out fee. Call Lee: 07713 149278 / 01902 330351.

TAD PLUMBING & HEATING

For all your plumbing needs.

30 years experience

24 HOUR CALL OUT, NO FEE! Call Trevor on 07791 319397

www.tadplumbingandheatingwolverhampton.co.uk

PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN

No job too small or large. Call Will for a free quote on: 07521 411108.

Removals

A2B REMOVALS Cheap and reliable removal service. Insured.

07617 942990 or 01902 744829.

A.D. REMOVALS/ house clearance/ single item. Budget rates/ reliable. 01902 652346/ 07912 980177

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

KT HOUSE REMOVALS

12 years experience.

SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL ADS. LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.

Free Quotes - Call Ric on:

07771 727119

KC REMOVALS We beat any quote, full or part loads, all areas. Anything considered. Call on 07867 862227.

Roofing

Howard Evans Domestic Roofing Division

■ All aspects of roofing work undertaken

■ Fully insured with £5,000,000 insurance cover

■ Guarantees offered up to 20 years for flat roofing.

■ A friendly professional service

0121 327 1336 / 01922 334189 / 07393 544168

info@howardevansroofingandcladding.co.uk

Skip Hire

A absolute affordable skip

RUSSELL SKIPS

Mini, midi skips

Prompt delivery / collection

(0121) 520 3388 / 07721 387990

QUICKA SKIPS

Mini, Midi, 6 Yard with doors and Builders.

7 days - Prompt Service

01902 404800 / 07983 580884

www.quickaskips.co.uk

Waste management

Recycling services

01902 459667

MOT TESTER / TYRE TECHNICIAN

within our busy workshop teams to deliver unbeatable customer service every time.

About the role
Due to the growth of our business over the last few months we are now looking for experienced MOT tester/Tyre fitters to join us within our busy Mercedes-Benz workshop teams based in Stafford and Walsall. This role will involve carrying out motor vehicle MOT testing and replacement of vehicle tyres to approved standards as well as delivering unbeatable customer service every time.

- Job Responsibilities include:**
- Carrying out MOT testing and undertaking the replacement of vehicle tyres on customer vehicles
 - Able to demonstrate the ability to work as part of a team to deliver excellent customer service
 - Ensuring effective use of technical knowledge and skills enabling efficient, economic and safe servicing and repair of customer vehicles
 - Building long lasting and effective working relationships with customers and colleagues
 - Accurately completing MOT and repair records as well as any other appropriate activities as specified by the Service Manager
 - Actively supporting company policy and best practice in the area of security, with particular emphasis on the protection of sensitive customer information
 - Analysing work orders carefully to understand a vehicle's condition, the accuracy of the diagnosis and what work has been agreed to
- Key Attributes and Skills:**
- Experience with VOSA process and MOT standards
 - Experience in the inspection and replacement of vehicle tyres
 - The ability to work as part of a team to deliver excellent customer service
 - Demonstrates an honest and diligent approach to work
 - Has a flexible approach to time-keeping when completing jobs in order to achieve customer satisfaction
 - Systematic and organised, pays attention to the finer details
 - A full and valid UK driving licence

Why us...?
In recognition of the hard work, flexibility and commitment of our people we have recently introduced a new and improved industry leading benefits package. This includes competitive basic salaries, enhanced holidays that increase with service, critical illness cover after 2 years, one year fully paid maternity leave for women and for some roles a high earning potential through commission or bonus.
As well as working with a great bunch of people you can also benefit from on-going development with investment in specific brand and management training and the opportunity of a long term career path with one of the UK's Top Employers 2017.
If you are interested in this role please send your CV to our Recruitment Team at recruitment@lookers.co.uk or contact Kimberley Campbell directly on 0161 33 362 for more information



Mercedes-Benz

8

Motoring

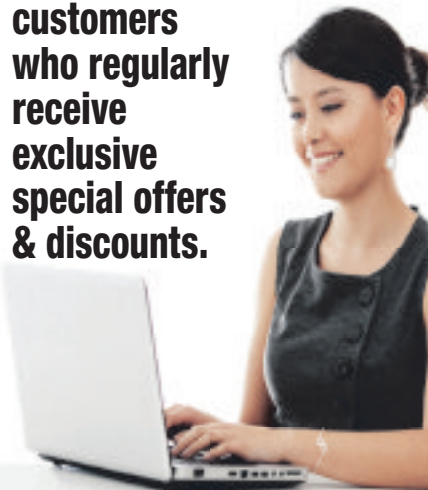
Cars Over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

**BOOK YOUR
ADVERTISEMENTS
OR FAMILY
ANNOUNCEMENTS
ONLINE AT**

bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk

and become one
of hundreds of
customers
who regularly
receive
exclusive
special offers
& discounts.



ClassifiedAds

9

Local
Information

Public Notices

WALSALL COUNCIL LICENSING ACT 2003 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE

Premises: 45-47 High Street, Bloxwich, Walsall WS3 3LU.

Notice is hereby given that Hannah Davis has applied to Walsall Council as the Licensing Authority for a premises licence under s.17 of the Licensing Act 2003.

Licensable Activities

Sale of Alcohol

Monday to Friday 08:00 to 20:00

Saturday 08:00 to 19:00

& Sunday 09:00 to 18:00

Opening Hours - Monday to

Friday 08:00 to 20:00

Saturday 08:00 to 19:00

& Sunday 09:00 to 18:00

Anyone who wishes to make representations regarding this application must give notice in writing to: The Licensing Unit, Walsall Council, Civic Centre, Walsall, WS1 1TP. Representations must be received no later than 24th January 2018.

The Application Record and Register may be viewed during normal office hours at the above address.

It is an offence under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is up to level 5 on the standard scale (5000).

10

Personals

Personal

Angels
The largest adult magazine in the Midlands
• Adult Toys • Sexy Lingerie
• Erotic Novels
Unit 3 Frederick Street,
Walsall WS2 0NE
01922 635544

**WONDERFUL
PEOPLE'DESERVE
WONDERFUL
COMPANY.**
**SO take the plunge and see if you
can meet that special person.**
**Don't be lonely ring
0121-520 3715 to take
the first step.**
You just need the right ATTITUDE.

**BUY LOCAL
SELL LOCAL**
01902 317878
ClassifiedAds

Scrap Vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB
**TOP PRICES PAID FOR
ALL SCRAP CARS,
VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS**
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts
available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

spares &
accessories

Mobile Mechanics

MOBILE MECHANICS Service & repairs. Headgasket, clutches and cambelts. 07747 848469.

MOBILE MOT TESTS
Class 4 Car and Light commercials.
Call 07901 655202

Vehicles Wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

Vehicle Hire

W.T.R. VAN HIRE Connects, Transits, Lutons with Tail lifts, pick-ups Open seven days. 01902 457002 / 01384 79090.

DALLAS
Wide variety of vans:
■ Small ■ Tipper ■ Crew
■ Large ■ Flats ■ Refrigerated
■ Lutons ■ Drop sides ■ Minibus
13A, Woden Road West, Wednesbury, WS10 7SF
www.dallas-hire.co.uk Tel: 0121 647 7112

**SELL IT FAST
SELL IT LOCAL**
01902 317878
ClassifiedAds

EXCLUSIVE

50% OFF
VIDEO OFFERS

VIDEO ADVERT

was £699* now £349

CORPORATE VIDEO

was £799* now £399

Call 01902 319730 quote 'offer50' to receive saving

www.mnadigital.co.uk/video-advertising

MNA DIGITAL

You should
be able
to trust the
ads you see.

If an ad is wrong,
the ASA is here to put it right.

ASA.org.uk

Advertising Standards Authority





Front, from left, Colin Thompson, Peter Holmes and Alan Ryder with fellow winners



Veteran of the Year went to Anna Edwards, aged 67



Kully Dulay, Angela Slater, Natalie Gilliland and Jane Langford from Ladybirds



Volunteer of the Year, 11-year-old Neve Egan



The Special Award of the Year presented to Councillor Mak Singh



Councillor Evans and Volunteer of the Year Jacky Silvester from Tettenhall



The Disabled Athlete of the Year, Richard Hammond from Tettenhall



Councillor Steve Evans presents Coach of the Year to Steve Peat

Sporting heroes step into the spotlight for awards

WOLVERHAMPTON'S sporting heroes took centre stage at the city's Sports Advisory Council awards night.

The annual event gives recognition to clubs, sportsmen and women as well as the unsung heroes who put in hours of service behind the scenes.

The Sports Advisory Council celebrated its 50th birthday earlier this year and chairman Peter Holmes MBE, who has overseen every awards ceremony since its formation, was delighted to celebrate sport and to acknowledge the unselfish work of countless volunteers.

"It was a pleasant evening and it was lovely to see a group of people who don't normally get acknowledged step into the spotlight," he said.

"I still get a tingle when I see what these wonderful people have contributed to their sport. In many cases it has been anonymous.

"A lot of these people have been ignored in the past, I hope we are highlighting what they do. I hope people appreciate what we try to do and it is purely and simply about the anonymous workers getting their true recognition.

"What never ceases to amaze me is the fact that we are a sporting city. Sport is in the DNA of every true Wulfrunian, whether they are a performer, a supporter or an official – somewhere in their DNA sport is in there.

Realise

"We have 18 centenary clubs in the city and in five years time we will have four more. I wish the council would realise this is in selling Wolverhampton. When people come into Wolverhampton, one of the first things they get into is sport.

"It's the opportunity for them to integrate into life in Wolverhampton. It's so simple, and yet we tend to ignore it. There are no barriers in sport, the only barrier is whether you can afford to take part."

Councillor Steve Evans handed out the 11 awards at Fordhouses Cricket Club. Wolverhampton City of Netball League stalwart Lorraine Shail took the Award of Merit for her years of service as a player, coach and umpire.

The Disabled Athlete of the Year went to Richard Hammond, celebrating his 20th year as a member of Wolverhampton Special Olympics. He has trained with

SPORTING FEATURE

By Nick Elwell

"We are a sporting city. Sport is in the DNA of every true Wulfrunian. Somewhere in their DNA sport is in there."

the swimming and gymnastic sections since the age of nine. He won two silver medals in the UK Special Olympic Games held in Sheffield in August to add to the two he won representing Great Britain at World Special Olympic Games in Athens in 2011.

The Coach of the Year accolade was picked up by Steve Peat. Peat was nominated by Wolverhampton Special Olympics after taking on a table tennis coaching role with the group.

He quickly made his mark with Wolverhampton the only group from the West Midlands to claim a gold at the Games in Sheffield earlier this year.

There was further cause for celebration for Wolverhampton Special Olympics after Jacky Silvester was named Volunteer of the Year.

Silvester has been coaching gymnastics and athletics for 32 years and is also head coach of the West Midlands Special Olympics, chair of the Wolverhampton Special Olympics and has coached at seven national summer games.

Wolverhampton City Netball netted another two prizes with Neve Egan scooping the Young Volunteer of the Year award and Anna Edwards the Veteran of the Year. As well as playing for Blaze, 11-year-old Egan is always on hand to help out with coaching and various other duties for her club and within the league.

Edwards stills plays at the age of 67 for Zimmers and has clocked up more than 50 years on court since she started playing netball at Manor Secondary School. She has also turned out for Park Rebels and Sam and is a well-known and popular figure with clubmates and opposition players alike.

Wolverhampton & Bilston Athletics Club were also

honoured for reaching their half-century. The club was formed in 1967 when Wolverhampton Harriers and Bilston Athletic Harriers joined forces.

Over the years they have produced some outstanding athletes who have represented the club and their country on the world stage.

Javelin thrower Tessa Sanderson won Olympic gold at Los Angeles in 1984 while Gary and Kath Cook won silver and bronze in their respective 4x400m relay events.

The club has also been granted the Queen's Award for outstanding work in the community and continues to go from strength to strength.

Ladybirds Netball Club were named Team/Club of the Year. They joined the Wolverhampton City Netball League in 1986 under the name of Wood Green High School.

After a few years of action they changed their name to Market Tavern after obtaining a sponsorship deal and have been playing under the Ladybirds guise since 1994.

Their on-court successes include winning the league's Handicap Tournament, Open Knockout and Non-Knockout Cup.

Councillor Mak Singh walked away with the Special Award of the Year. Singh has given outstanding support to the Sports Advisory Council and was a key figure in organising the 50 year celebrations in the summer.

Bollywood

Singh has an impressive sporting background having won numerous powerlifting titles and also spent several years as a stunt double in Bollywood films.

The final two awards were the RV Cook Memorial Trophy and HE Lane Memorial Trophy. The latter went to Alan Ryder, a member of the JW Hunt Cup committee, for services to local football, that has seen him involved at grassroots level as a player and secretary with clubs including Northcote Old Boys, Red Dragons, Wolverhampton Transport, Wednesfield Town and Marston's for more than 45 years.

The RV Cook Trophy went to Wolverhampton & Bilston AC's Colin Thompson. He joined the club in 1999 as a runner and moved onto the committee a year later, becoming chairman in 2004.

He instigated numerous initiatives that have helped the club grow. One of the highlights was when W&B were voted England Athletics Development Club of the Year in 2010.



SPORTS DESK 01902 319531

CHRON.SPORT@EXPRESSANDSTAR.CO.UK

Brave fight but visitors despatched

Walsall 39 Cleobury Mortimer 0
THIS was Cleobury's first ever visit to Delves Road and the recently promoted team battled bravely throughout.

But they faced a Walsall team that looked determined in attack and defence. The wet, muddy conditions made it a real test for both teams with the hosts always looking to be in control.

Although, they pressed for long periods, they did not manage to get their first score until a quarter of the game had gone. It came from a powerful scrum 20m out. No8 JB Luczak, made a timely pick up and broke through the visitors' defence for a well taken try.

Rob Angell created their next score within five minutes, with Matt James diving over. Full-back Roger Weston put over a good conversion.

The hosts continued to press forward, but Cleobury defended well and Walsall were restricted to a Weston 30m penalty during the next ten minutes.

The hosts put together some of their best attacks during the final five minutes of the first half, resulting in a try for prop Simon Weaver.

Winger Sam Garbett outpaced the defence on a 40m try scoring run for the next score, once again Weston added the testing conversion despite the muddy conditions. This secured the hosts a try bonus point and a 29-0 interval lead.

Cleobury were hit by two yellow cards at the start of the second half. But Walsall only added a Weston penalty during the first quarter. Centre Angell brightened up the final five gloomy minutes, weaving through the visitors' defence from 30m for a superb score. Weston capped an impressive individual performance with an excellent conversion.

Beaten by weather as games called off

NON-LEAGUE football was decimated by the weather at the weekend.

Rushall Olympic were defeated by a frozen pitch which saw Saturday's game against Whitby Town called off.

Pics are at Stalybridge Celtic on Saturday, entertain near neighbours Hednesford Town on Boxing Day and are at home again in the league on January 30, to Farsley Celtic.

The Pics' Walsall Senior Cup quarter-final at Stafford Rangers will be on Tuesday, January 16, kick off 7.45pm.

Walsall Wood's top-of-the-table clash with Leicester Road fell the same way. No new date has yet been scheduled. They were due to face Lichfield City last night (Wednesday) before facing Bolehall Swifts away on Saturday, and then Stafford Town at home on Boxing Day.

Darlaston Town (1874) saw their Birmingham County FA Vase Third Round tie with Rugby Borough postponed. On Saturday, Team Dudley visit The Paycare Ground in the West Midlands (Regional) League Division One, ko 2pm.

Death of former Saddlers winger



McEwan, front centre, as Walsall trainer

A FORMER Walsall winger and trainer, who also had a spell as caretaker manager, has died at the age of 88. Jimmy McEwan died on November 28 at the Madeleine House care home in Birmingham.

He was best known as a star of the Aston Villa side that won Division Two in 1959/60 before going on to lift the League Cup the following year.

The Scotsman was snapped up from Raith Rovers in 1959 for £8,000 and netted on his debut in a 2-1 victory over Brighton. Villa won the old Division Two title that year and also reached the FA Cup

semi-finals. The following year, McEwan netted 10 times as Villa finished seventh in the top flight and won the first ever League Cup.

McEwan remained at Villa for the next three years. In all, he played 181 games and scored 32 goals before he leaving to join Walsall in 1966.

He only played 10 times for the Saddlers but stayed on at Fellows Park until the early 1970s, spending time as trainer, coach and caretaker manager, then worked at Ansell's Brewery and at the Social Security Offices in Handsworth.

WHITS: GO ON A RUN AGAIN

WALSALL boss Jon Whitney has challenged his side to channel their hurt into going on another winning run following defeat at Northampton on Saturday.

The Saddlers had won their previous three league games prior to the reverse at Sixfields.

And Whitney challenged his players to use the pain of defeat in their next fixture at Rochdale on Saturday, writes Joe Masi.

The boss said: "We want to start another run. The Rochdale game is going to very similar to the Northampton. They will be high energy and they will put us under pressure."

"We have to remember the feeling we have got. That it hurts. Then when something similar happens next week, we can make sure we are better. That is all we can do."

Saturday's clash had a frantic start and frantic end, but was largely uneventful in the middle.

Dream

But it means in 21 league games so far, the Saddlers have won seven, drawn seven and lost seven – and they lie seven points either side of both the play-off and relegation zones.

Walsall made the dream start – with a goal inside 70 seconds thanks to some truly calamitous goalkeeping from David Cornell.

After Liam Kinsella had played the ball forward, the keeper needlessly charged out of his box despite Aaron Pierre being in a position where he could comfortably clear any danger.

And the glovesman's presence caused the defender to hesitate with Amadou Bakayoko then doing brilliantly to nip in, win the ball and square for Erhun Oztumer to tap home. A real gift, the goal should have been a platform for Walsall to go on and stifle their opponents with the Cobblers crowd waiting to turn on a team that had scored just six goals at home all season.



Zeli Ismail put in a cross during Saturday's 2-1 defeat to Northampton Town at Sixfields

Yet within four minutes Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink's men were level as a Sam Foley cross was met in the box by John-Joe O'Toole.

His header was well-saved by Mark Gillespie, but the goalkeeper was only able to parry the ball back into the danger area and Chris Long was in the right place to nod in from close range.

Walsall almost regained the lead in the 15th minute when Kieron Morris weaved his way into the box before tricking his way past two defenders. The winger stabbed the ball towards goal with the effort somehow slipping under Cornell. But David Buchanan had positioned himself on the goal-line and was able to clear.

Walsall failed to test a nervous Cornell in the

remainder of the half with a serious-looking injury to Florent Cuvelier further hampering their progress. To make matters worse for Whitney's men, they fell behind against the run of play in the 41st minute when Long fired in a crisp low drive from 20 yards.

With defeat staring them in the face, tensions boiled over in stoppage time when Bakayoko slid in with a reckless challenge on Matt Crooks.

It may have been out of character, but it was a nasty tackle that left referee Charles Breakspear with no option but to issue a straight red card.

Such was Crooks' fury, he was then sent off for dissent – with the midfielder picking up a second yellow card for way he responded to the tackle.

Fears for Flo after latest injury blow

WALSALL were this week hoping to learn the extent of Florent Cuvelier's knee injury after the midfielder broke down in the defeat to Northampton.

The 25-year-old was carried off in some pain on Saturday as the Cobblers ran out 2-1 winners at Sixfields.

Cuvelier has seen his career blighted by injury over the past few years and the Belgian picked up his latest injury in the first half following a late challenge from Northampton's Matt Crooks.

Crooks was then on the receiving end of reckless tackle from Amadou Bakayoko which resulted in the Walsall player being given a straight red card. And boss Jon Whitney felt there was little difference between the two challenges.

"I thought the challenge on Flo was a really bad tackle," he said. "The referee got the big decision right with Ama at the end. But I felt he should have set his stall out early with that one, that was a reckless tackle."

The injury was being assessed on Monday with concerns Cuvelier could miss out on the important festive season.

Whitney added: "I feel for Flo. It's something in his knee. We are just hoping it's nothing too sinister."

Stats the way to do it, proves Oz

JON Whitney reckons Erhun Oztumer is going the extra mile for Walsall this season – and has the stats to prove it.

The 26-year-old playmaker ran further than any other Saddlers player during the 1-0 win over Scunthorpe, while his average distance he covers in a game has increased from 10 to 11.5km compared to a year ago. Whitney sees this as proof Oztumer has the work-rate to back up his considerable talent.

"He works his socks off," Whitney said. "The distances and the intensity of his press, the defensive job he does in the team is what all the players need to do. The hard work comes first and I think Erhun understands that."

● Walsall's League One match at Peterborough has been rearranged for February 27, kick-off 7.45pm, subject to Posh's Checkatrade Trophy commitments. The January 6 fixture was cancelled due to United's FA Cup involvement.

★★★

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketter, Telford. Thursday, December 21, 2017

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
The recycled content of newspapers in 2015 was 62.8%



recycle for Walsall



Walsall Council

Your Christmas Rubbish and Recycling arrangements 2017/18

Telephone: 01922 653344 Website: www.walsallbins.co.uk

Email cleanandgreen@walsall.gov.uk



@Cleangreentweet



Walsall bins and things

see our main advert inside

